

THE ARCHITECT & BUILDING NEWS

IN THIS ISSUE

- ETHEL WILLIAMS HALL OF RESIDENCE
- A VISIT TO LEITZIGRABEN
- PUBLIC WORKS EXHIBITION REVIEW

NOVEMBER 13, 1952 · VOL. 202 · NO. 4378 · ONE SHILLING WEEKLY

Greatways to Progress



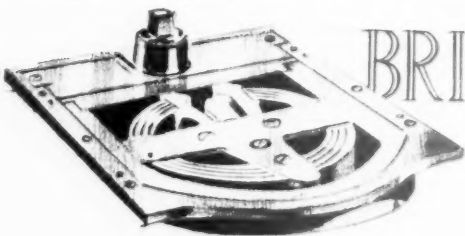
Australia House—

Foundation Stone laid by H.M. King George V, 24th July, 1913.

Officially opened by H.M. King George V, 3rd August, 1918.

Architects—A. Marshall MacKenzie, & Son, F.R.I.B.A.

The

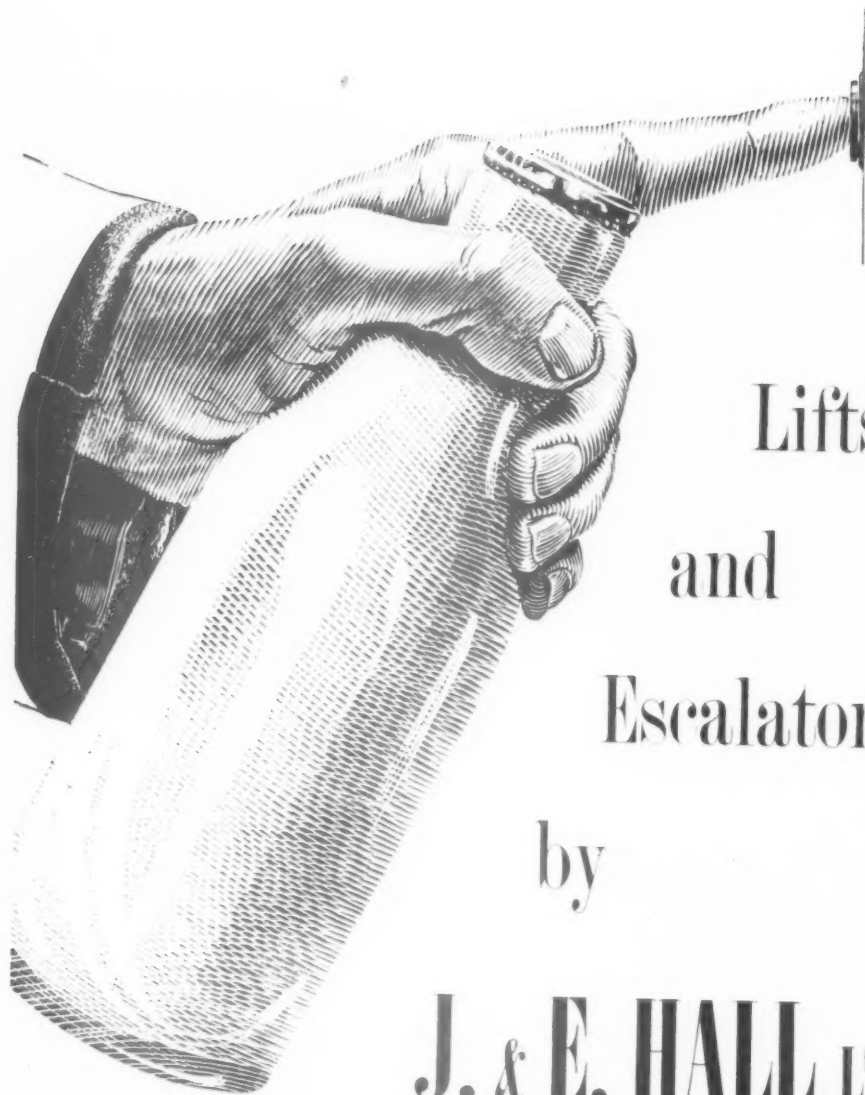


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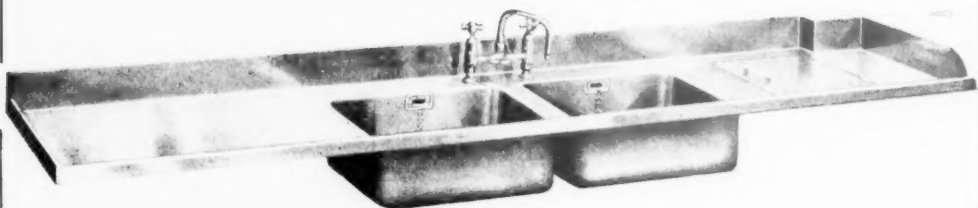
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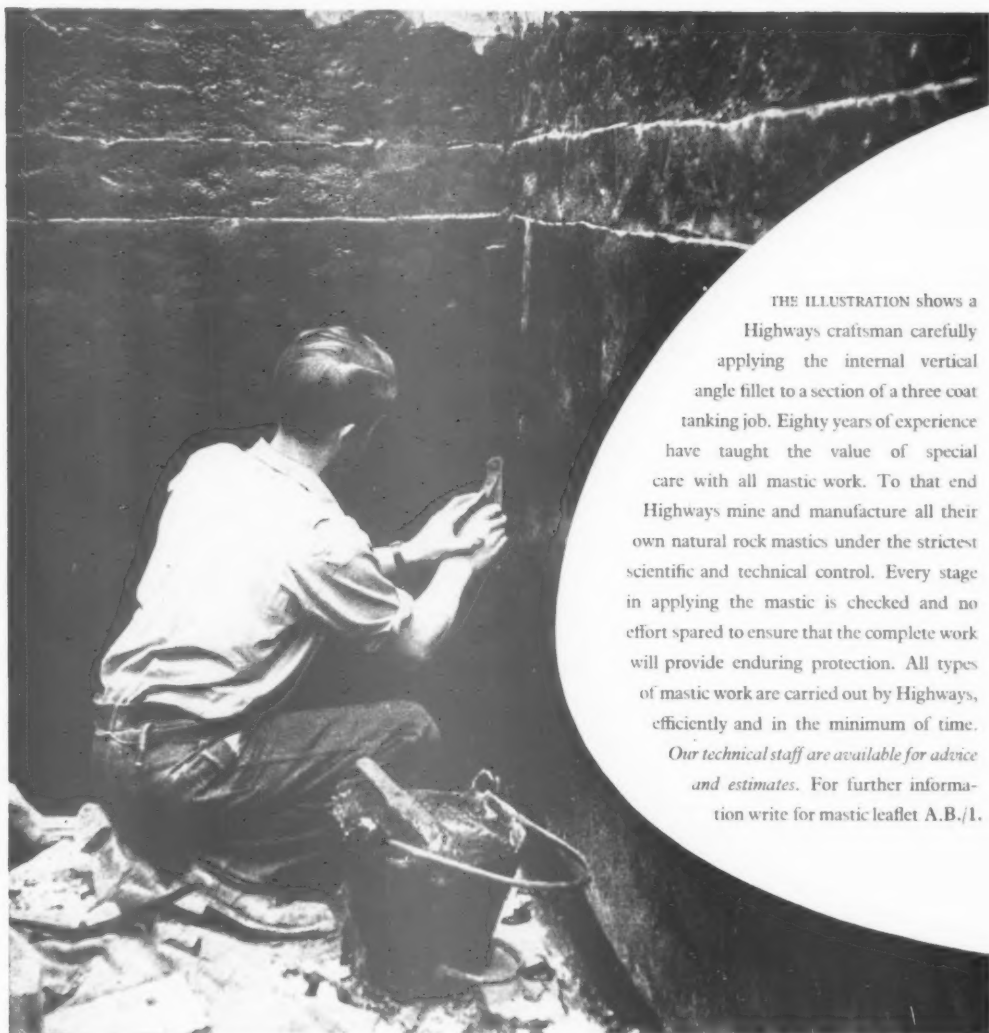
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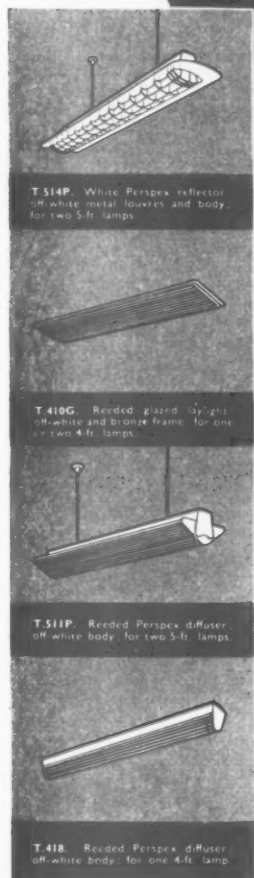
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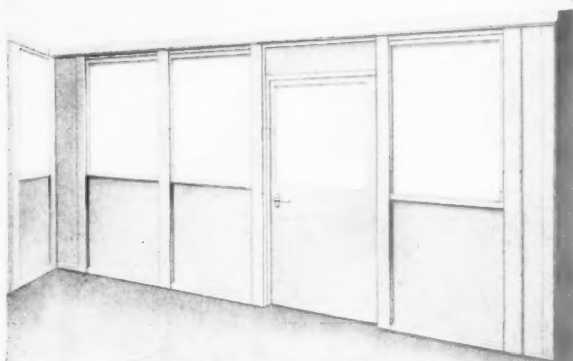
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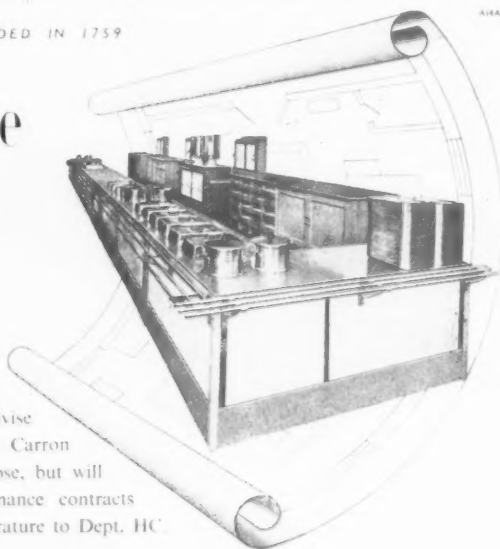
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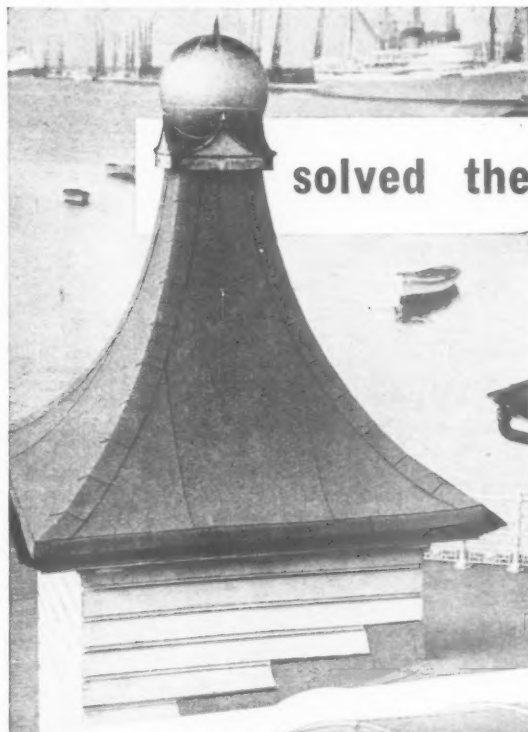
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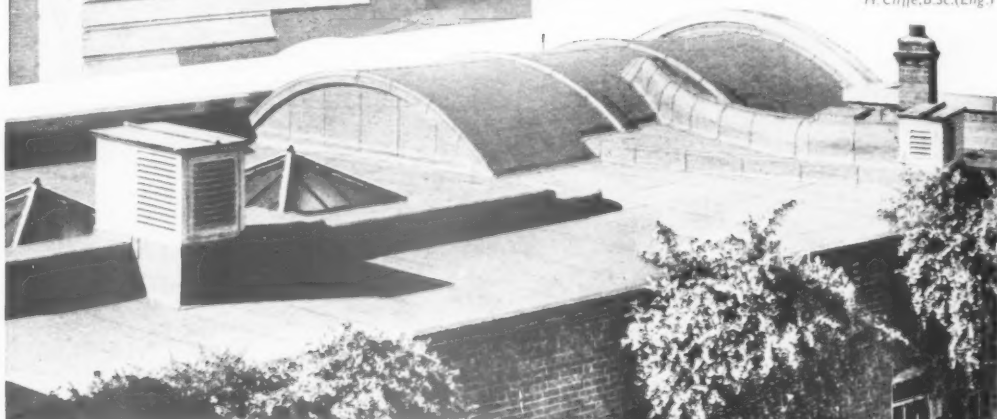
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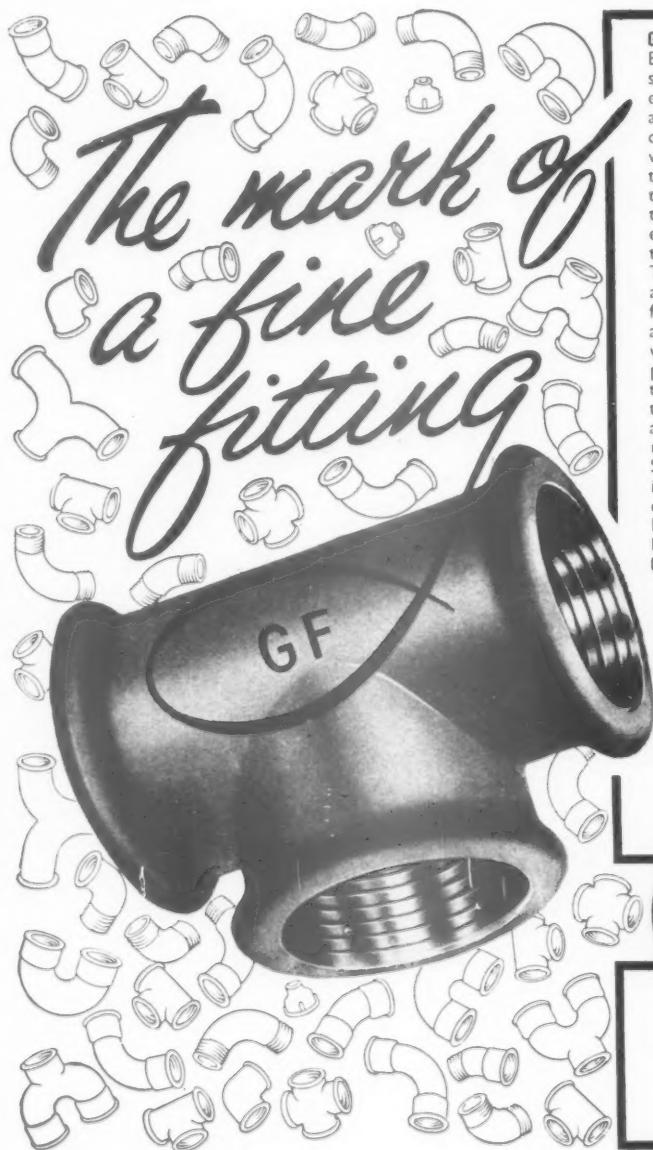
Care still needed

All this is good news; but care is still needed. If the coming winter is a hard one—unlike last year's mild winter—there is still a danger of overloading the available plant, with resulting inconvenience and loss of production in the factories. That is why the general public are still being asked to co-operate by going easy with their electricity in the early mornings and late afternoon, particularly on cold days.

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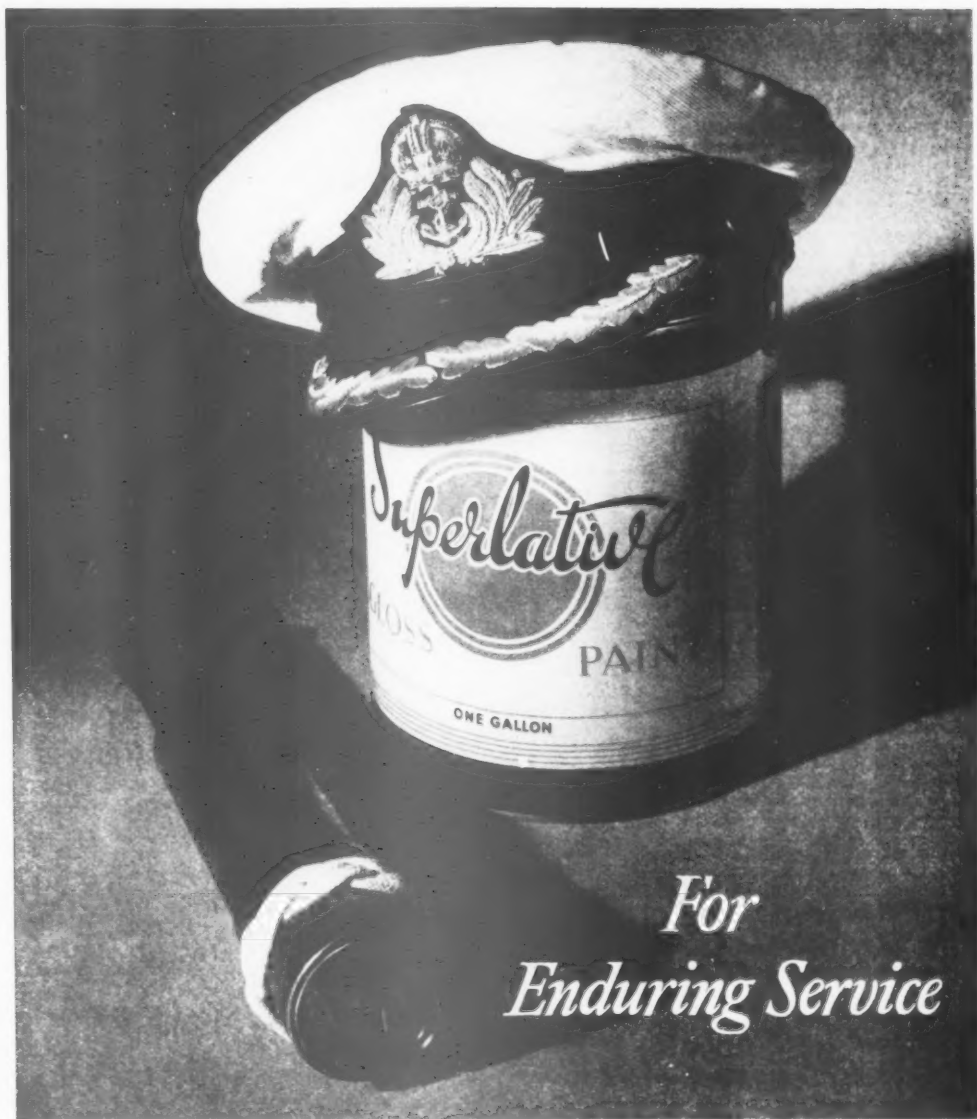
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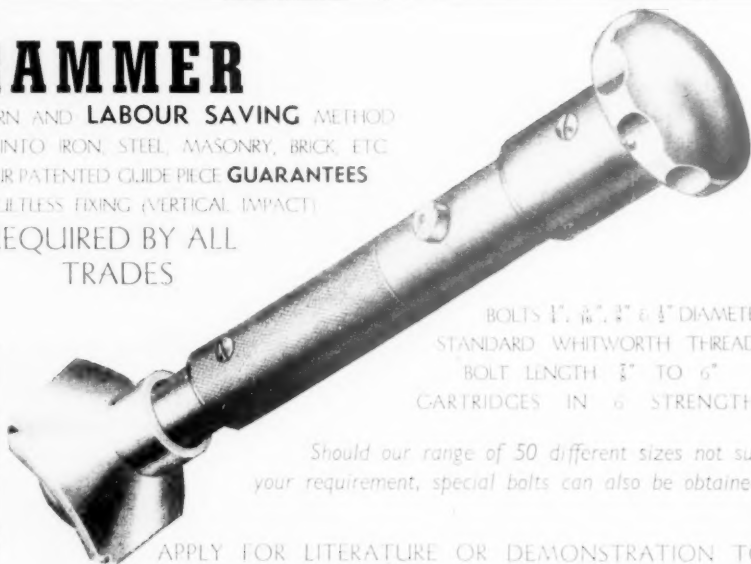
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LBC 14



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too young
to learn**

It's never too young to learn. Even though a few knocks and bumps are suffered in the process, learning the hard way is a good way. Experience is a splendid teacher for both aspiring chairman and structural engineers.

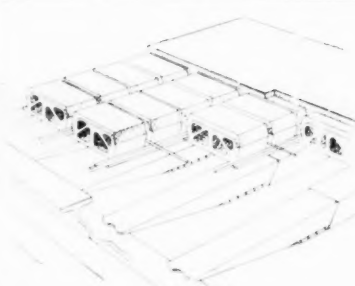
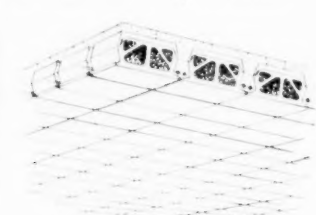


Banister, Walton build in steel

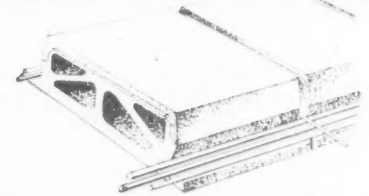
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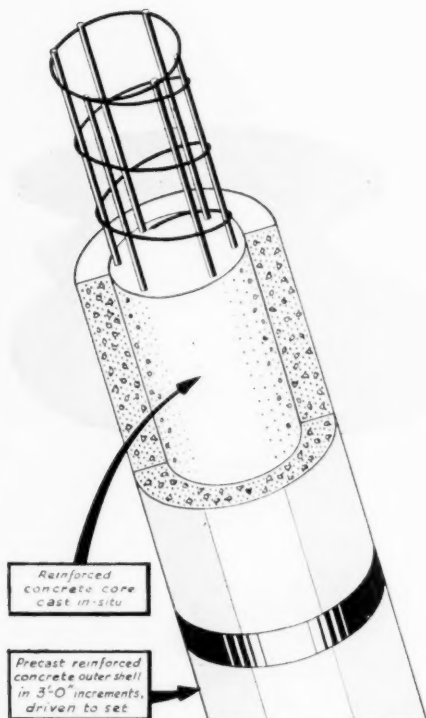
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PRICE-FIXING IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY

LAST Friday the House of Commons finished its week's work with an adjournment discussion, which, framed in no uncertain factual terms by the Member for Faversham, called from the Minister of Works a statement that no government could remain indifferent to arrangements which limited competition and raised the prices of buildings. He went on to say the Ministry had already taken some steps in the matter but he was not sure they had gone far enough. The combined operation of architect, quantity surveyor and contractor should be improved and the lead, he thought, should come from the R.I.B.A. His Ministry would give all the help they could. The obvious next step was reference to the Board of Trade for the consideration of the Monopolies Commission, but that was a long procedure and if quicker results were to be obtained to the satisfaction of Parliament and the country, he hoped that the building industry would not overlook the importance of freedom and the price to be paid for it—fair dealing and service to the public. The Minister said further that he was against nationalization and state control but what better justification for these measures could be found than an arrangement between employers for fixing prices and limiting competition. How, he asked, could he get the trade unions to consider the abandonment of restrictive practices in the face of price fixing?

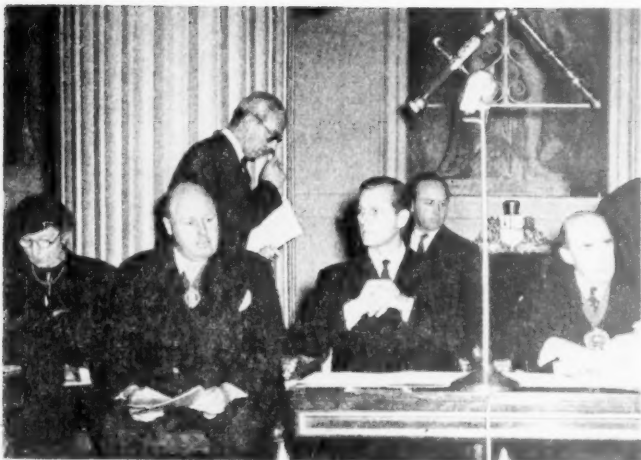
This is a useful re-opening of the subject and we hope that it will produce results. But re-opening it is; for as we have remarked before, this is not a recent matter.¹ It may be worth while to review some history for the benefit of our readers.

After the slump of 1931 the building industry found itself facing unemployment and reduction of work through a general tightening-up of capital expenditure on a national scale. In order that some sort of sound bottom should be retained, prices

were reduced and profits followed. The employees curtailed demands in order to retain employment and the employers cut costs to survive. Extended public works and speculative building brought the swing of the pendulum which was further boosted to the top movement by the demands of a defence programme in the immediate pre-war years.

It was about this time that many complaints arose regarding price-rings in various directions. Architects found that a series of building tenders, tenders for steel, windows and for certain materials or components would come out, or tend to come out, all the same or would be all very high, except one. There was considerable irritation at these attempts to take advantage of a rising market and a recovery to full employment. In September 1939, therefore, the R.I.B.A. published a statement advising its members on the situation and recommending the use of a declaration to be signed by all tenderers to the effect that tenders were open and included no adjustments or arrangements with other persons.² Many builders refuse to sign this declaration, being members of the London Builders Conference (see below).

Any further intensive consideration of the question was suspended by the war of 1939-45. But there is no doubt that the system continued, with a greater intensity reinforced by experience in use, during those years. With the restrictions and controls of post-war years imposed to cope with short supplies of materials and labour and an attempt to limit capital expenditure against inflation threats, in other words a restriction on output and profits for the employers, the system of price fixing was once more in full swing and, for that matter, still is. There is, however, a great difference from the slump years following 1931. Heavy unemployment has given way to full employment and the bargaining powers of the employee have risen accordingly.



On November 5, H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh presented L.M.B.A. medals to prizewinners in the City and Guild's examinations. The ceremony took place at the Mansion House and the picture shows some of the platform party. L—R: Miss Florence Horsburgh, Minister of Education; Mr. D. E. Woodbine-Parish, President, L.M.B.A.; The Duke of Edinburgh; and The Lord Mayor, Sir Leslie Boyce. In the other picture the Duke presents the Silver Medal for Carpentry and Joinery to Gordon Jupp of Croydon Polytechnic.

Knowing or sensing the methods of agreed price-fixing, such methods have been copied in another sphere and restrictive practices in various directions were adopted as an answer by the Unions. Unfortunately this does not help the public; the building bill that has to be met is only increased by such all-round upgrading of tenders and wages and we have seen the results since the war: high costs, reduced output and a general reticence to build or to permit building.

Last Friday the House of Commons heard a great deal about the London Builders Conference, a body which exists, according to some, for "fixing prices and obtaining a rake-off" and, according to others, "for arranging a fair-price scheme" and "taken as a whole . . . to carrying-out the Report of the Simon Committee . . . resulting in no increase in the cost of building."¹

The London Builders Conference operates in London and over considerable regions of the south. Its activities extend to other regions or its methods are practised by other bodies elsewhere. The Member for Faversham gave a good many details of the procedure adopted and his statement is materially confirmed by the experience of the architectural profession in many parts of the country.

Light is thrown on the whole question of building costs and the probable effect of price-fixing by a number of post-war documentary sources. For example the Simon Committee found "that restrictive arrangements affecting the distribution of building materials and components exist on a large scale."² "It is reasonable to believe that the renewal of price competition would not only reduce the net profit margin, but also make substantial reductions in the heavy cost of distribution."³

Overheads and profits in house-building will inevitably include any coverage for price-fixing

arrangements, however they are made. Under the four headings, Labour, Materials, Plant, and Overheads and Profit, the last mentioned shows the largest relative increase in the cost of house building over the years from 1939 to 1949; the percentage increases were 158, 157, 156 and 196 respectively.⁴ "The Council (R.I.B.A.) deprecated the procedure which has the effect of adding an amount to the contract price for which the building owner receives no visible or tangible return."⁵

"Not all the major factors which determine the cost of building are within the employer's control, but we think they should beware of complacency in the face of continually rising costs. In the long term interests of the industry it lies especially with them to seek and to apply effective remedies."⁶ "All concerned in building operations should co-operate fully in everything that helps to improve efficiency and to extend the advantageous use of the appliances, methods and materials which scientific and technical advances place at their disposal."⁷

We are glad this matter is, at last, before the Government for serious consideration; the R.I.B.A. first acted in 1939; a lot of building has been done in thirteen years and its cost has been high.

References:

- ¹ Our "second" leader, Aug. 21st, 1951.
- ² For full text, see *R.I.B.A. Journal*, Sept. 1939; repeated in same *Journal* in Aug. 1951.
- ³ *News Chronicle* report of statement by Sir Alfred Hurst, chairman of London Builders Conference.
- ⁴ *The Distribution of Building Materials and Components: Report* (M.O.W.), 1948, Chap. V and p. 50.
- ⁵ *ibid.*, p. 51.
- ⁶ *Cost of House-Building: Report* (M.O.H.), p. 11.
- ⁷ R.I.B.A. Council Meeting, July 3rd, 1951, reported in *R.I.B.A. Journal*, Aug. 1951, p. 378.
- ⁸ *Building Working Party: Report* (M.O.W.), 1950, p. 15.
- ⁹ *ibid.*, p. 51.

EVENTS AND COMMENTS

P.R.I.B.A.'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

A good crowd went to hear Mr. Howard Robertson at the R.I.B.A. last week, and among the press of old friends and admirers I was glad to see that there were quite a number of young architects and students. My advice to students is never miss an opportunity of hearing Mr. Robertson for he is, as Sir Gerald Kelly said later in the evening, such a sensible man. You may read Mr. Robertson's address on page 572 of this issue, but it is not illustrated with the very entertaining slides which he used. The slides were shown without special reference to the address and without identification. Mr. Robertson explained that his audience could either listen to him or look at the slides. I personally found it quite impossible to do both. My curiosity about some of the buildings which I did not know meant that I missed whole paragraphs of the paper but I did not know this until I read the report.

Mr. A. R. F. Anderson at the A.A. the week before gave the trials of the professional, business, and administrative sides of architecture and Mr. Robertson admirably completed the survey by considering the problems of the architect as an artist and creative designer. I would like to draw your attention particularly to his plea for a few buildings of fine quality in these times of restriction. And here my mind jumps to Coventry Cathedral which Mr. Spence thinks could be built in five years and which the Coventry City Council wishes to see postponed for at least ten years on the grounds that its construction will interfere with house building. It has been often and clearly stated that the materials and type of labour to be used on the building of the cathedral are not those used in housing but the City Council does not seem to be prepared to accept this argument. Coventry Cathedral seems to me to illustrate Mr. Robertson's point perfectly. Next, please note his reference to the rebuilding of French towns where contemporary feeling and tradition have been merged to preserve the towns identities. Although I do not particularly admire this type of French architecture I feel a little anxious about the future identities of some of our bombed towns. To illustrate this point I saw last week-end reconstruction work going on in Bath. In Queen Square part of one side is being rebuilt with a matching façade while behind it, in my view quite properly, advantage is being taken of modern methods to provide accommodation suitable to a modern hotel. Elsewhere, however, I saw recently completed flats whose only concession to the overall splendour of Bath architecture was that they were faced in stone. Mr. Robertson, one of whose most refreshing characteristics is architectural youth, praised our schools, factories, and housing but pointed out that much of the material used was unworthy of the design. Although he did not think we had yet reached the age where all buildings all over the world looked exactly the same he warned against the standardization of design brought about by the sheer power of techniques.

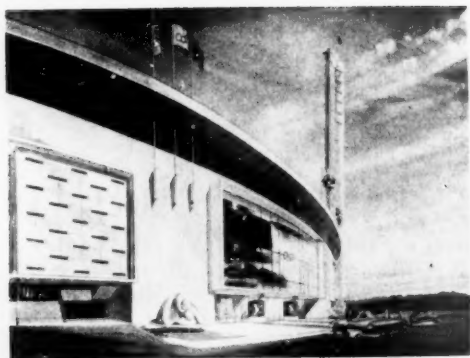
I would like to see the inaugural addresses of the P.R.I.B.A. and the President of the A.A. reprinted together in pamphlet form and distributed to every architectural student in the country.



Mr. Hugh Molson, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the M.O.W., proposed the vote of thanks to Mr. Robertson and chose the occasion, rather badly I thought, to ask architects to do more and more with less and less—a hollow request this with so many architects under employed through no fault of their own. He then went on to have a bash at the architectural correspondent of *The Times* for his attack on the government's policy, or lack of it, for rebuilding the City. Sir Gerald Kelly soon brought the meeting back to its correct course with a very witty speech which included the confession that he had once had to throw away a portrait commissioned by the R.I.B.A. It was, however, paid for. The presence of the President of the Royal Scottish Academy added a certain piquancy to the remarks of the P.R.A. for Mr. Hutchison painted the portrait of Mr. Graham Henderson which was later unveiled. Mr. Henderson commenting on the portrait complained that it made him look too prosperous, and Mr. Hutchison pointed out that although he had had some trouble in luring Mr. Henderson to his studio, since he was always either in a train, aeroplane, or eating dinners, his portrait had not suffered the fate of the one painted by the P.R.A.

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AND THE L.M.B.A.

It was indeed a feather in the cap of Mr. David Woodbine Parish that during his presidency of the L.M.B.A. the Duke of Edinburgh should present the first series of L.M.B.A. medals for craft proficiency to apprentices trained in the London Area. I imagine that no apprentices in the past have been so highly honoured as to receive their awards from the Queen's Consort at a meeting presided over by the Lord Mayor of London in the presence of two of her Majesty's ministers and a host of those eminent in the building world. The meeting took place in the Egyptian Hall of the Mansion House and the arrangements were most perfectly managed. The speeches were very good indeed, in fact it has been a remarkable fortnight for good speeches in the architectural and building world. His Royal Highness while congratulating the winners pointed out that prizewinning was not everything and often meant very little in after life. He went on to ask builders to build faster and more cheaply saying that he believed that such improvements were possible. I thought that the medal winners were a likely looking lot of lads and was particularly glad to see that they all looked



The Olympic Games of 1956 are to be held at Melbourne. In an architectural competition for the design of the Olympic Stadium, 115 entries were received from Australian architects. A perspective of the winning design by Mr. Frank Heath and detail of the main entrance are shown here. The Stadium is estimated to cost £A1,100,000, and is designed to hold 125,000 spectators, 50,000 of whom will be seated.

the Duke straight in the eye when receiving their awards, an important point not always observed at such functions. This very successful occasion should give a great fillip to apprenticeship in the building industry throughout the country. Mr. Woodbine Parish is to be most heartily congratulated not only on making a most excellent speech of introduction and explanation but also, with his Association on organizing such an impressive meeting. The President of the L.M.B.A. has shown himself quite tireless in the cause of building education and members of the A.A. will look forward eagerly to hearing him give his paper on this subject in the New Year.

HIGH PADDINGTON

Supporting the scheme *The Sheffield Telegraph* says "Why not High Wicker?" and urges that such a project is at least deserving of consideration in Sheffield where housing is urgently needed and the demand on land too great. In a letter to the *Manchester Guardian* Sir Gerald Barry comments on the Sheffield City Council's expressed intention to buy 500 acres of land for housing and thus to wipe out Sheffield's green belt. Sir Gerald suggests that the High Paddington solution is the right one and points out the many advantages of such a scheme over that of swallowing up more and more of our precious country. He also appeals for the redevelopment of slum areas, quoting a recent speech of the Minister of Housing and Local Government in support of his point. Paisley, though not in so many words, is echoing High Paddington by suggesting that the River White Cart might be bridged over and carry buildings. The model can still be seen at the Building Centre bathed in the brightest artificial sunlight.

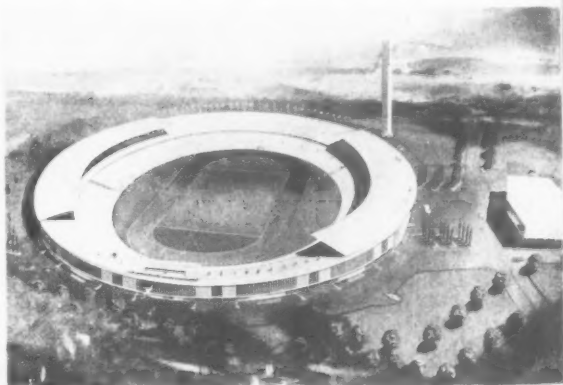
ACOUSTICS OF THE ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

The report of the L.C.C. general purposes committee for October 20 has a good deal to say about the acoustics of the Royal Festival Hall. Informed opinion, in the shape of scientists, conductors, musicians and critics, was consulted on three major occasions in 1951. The general

impression seems to have been that the acoustics of the hall are very good indeed. Naturally one or two people had certain faults to find. As a result of the opinions expressed nothing is to be done to alter the definition of the hall, which is generally agreed to be outstandingly good. Blending is, however, to be slightly improved by increasing the period of reverberation, possibly by reducing the acoustic absorption of the ceiling, and by raising a portion of the orchestra platform. All concerned with the design of the hall are very much to be congratulated on the acoustics of what many eminent musicians have described as the finest hall in the world.

ARCHITECT TO THE L.C.C.

One person among those most to be congratulated on the Royal Festival Hall generally is also due for particular congratulation. Dr. J. L. Martin has been recommended by the G.P.C. of the L.C.C.—this committee is much in the



news this week—to succeed Mr. Robert Matthew as Architect to the Council. This will be a very popular appointment and will ensure continuity in its best possible form in the architectural work of the Council. Good luck, sir, and may your high flats never cast a shadow on anyone's garden.

R.I.B.A. CHRISTMAS LECTURES FOR CHILDREN

Mr. Hope Bagenal is to give two lectures this session on Huts, Houses, and Building Stones. The lectures are designed for boys and girls of 13 and upwards and look like being a mixture of fairy story and building construction. The first lecture deals with such entrancingly named things as pop holes, owl doors and witch posts, and the second with the Volcano of Dartmoor and "why Mythology enters into building studies." Those who know Mr. Bagenal and have heard of these lectures will already have applied for tickets, others would be well advised to apply now or they may miss a treat—and two valuable lessons in English composition and diction. The lectures will be held at the R.I.B.A. on Wednesday, December 31, and Friday, January 2, 1953. I am writing to Mr. Bagenal for an elixir to turn myself into a child of 13 or over.

GARDEZ LOO!

Thieves in Leeds are specializing in stealing lead waste pipes from houses. It is perhaps just as well that the practice of using lead for soil pipes has been discontinued.

ABNER

NEWS OF THE WEEK

Saltire Society Awards

On November 6, The Earl of Home presented scrolls on behalf of the Saltire Society to the architects for the two best Scottish local authority schemes of the year. Mr. A. G. Jury, F.R.I.B.A., City Architect and Planning Officer, Glasgow, received one for his three-storey flats at Eastwood, Glasgow, and Mr. Basil Spence, O.B.E., A.R.S.A., F.R.I.B.A., received the other for his fishermen's cottages at Dunbar Harbour.

L.C.C. to Test Paints

The London County Council's Establishment Committee has decided to spend just over £2,000 in providing and equipping an extension to the chemical laboratories at County Hall to enable a systematic check to be maintained on the qualities of the 200,000 gallons of paint used annually by the Council on its housing estates, schools, and other establishments. The Council's annual painting bill, including labour, amounts to over £1 million.

The Public Health Department's Chemist-in-Chief has, for some years, been responsible for testing paints used by the Council, but owing to the large quantities now needed, and the increasing complexity of materials used in the manufacture of paints, it has been decided to improve testing facilities in the laboratory and to install modern equipment for measuring such qualities as weathering, hardness, and anti-corrosion. The equipment will include: a *weatherometer*, which simulates an accelerated weathering test whereby the effects of a long exposure to the atmospheric condition of a town can be produced in a relatively short time. A *corrosion (humidity) cabinet* to enable the anti-corrosion properties of paint films to be assessed by artificial conditions. It is especially useful in relation to the coating of metals. An *automatic scratch test apparatus* which gives a measure of hardness and adhesion of a paint film. A *gloss meter* to measure the degree of gloss and detect deterioration of it.

These up-to-date facilities for testing paint samples, submitted by potential contractors and paint supplies delivered to sites, are aimed at avoiding failures and the heavy labour and material costs of repainting, and at achieving economy in the amount of painting required by ensuring that the most suitable paint is used for different kinds of work to be done.

Housing Progress Report.
September

The number of permanent houses completed in Great Britain during September was 22,323, compared with 17,168 in September, 1951. September was Britain's best month since the war for permanent house completions.

COMING EVENTS

Building Teachers' Conference.

November 15 at 10.30 a.m. Meeting of the Building Teachers' Conference at L.C.C. Brixton School of Building.

Housing Centre.

November 18 at 6 p.m. "The Town Development Act," by Mr. W. A. Wood, Ministry of Housing and Local Government, at 13, Suffolk Street, Haymarket, S.W.1.

Institute of Quantity Surveyors.

November 18. Second Annual Dinner of the Institute of Quantity Surveyors, North West (Western) Branch, Junior Section at Cross Keys Hotel, Earle Street, Liverpool. The price of admission will be 12s 6d inclusive. Tickets may be obtained from the Secretary of the Branch, J. Fitzgerald, 26, Randall Drive, Ford, Liverpool, 21.

The Institution of Structural Engineers.

November 18 at 7 p.m. Film: "Fawley Refinery," Parts 1 and 2, at Midland Counties Branch, Derby.

November 19 at 6.30 p.m. "Unusual Design for a Large Constructional Shop," by F. R. Bullen, at Lancashire and Cheshire Branch at College of Technology, Manchester.

November 19 at 6.30 p.m. "Electric Screw Piling," by R. G. Braithwaite, at Wales and Monmouthshire Branch at the Mackworth Hotel, Swansea.

November 19 at 6.30 p.m. "Concrete Grain Silos at Louth," by G. C. Cummings, at Yorkshire Branch at The University, Leeds.

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

November 18 at 6.30 p.m. Annual Dinner: Principal guest and speaker, The Right Honourable David Eccles, M.P. (Minister of Works), at Grosvenor House.

Royal Society of Arts.

November 19 at 2.30 p.m. "100 Years of the Victoria and Albert Museum," by Sir Leigh Ashton, F.S.A., Director and Secretary of the Museum. Sir Harold Claughton, C.B.E., in the Chair. At John Adam Street, Adelphi, W.C.2.

Society of Chemical Industry.

November 20 at 6 p.m. "Cement Aggregate Interaction on Concrete," by Dr. F. E. Jones of the Building Research Station. At The Building Centre, 26, Store Street, W.C.1.

Student Planning Group.

November 20 at 6.30 p.m. "Mind and Plan," by E. A. Rowse, A.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I., Principal, School of Planning and Research for Regional Development, at 28, King Street, W.C.2.

Victoria and Albert Museum.

November 19 at 6.15 p.m. The Victorian Portrait in Sculpture and Painting, by David Piper, Assistant Keeper, National Portrait Gallery, at Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, S.W.7.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Ronald D. Salmon, A.A. Dip., A.R.I.B.A., announces that he has now opened an office at 2a, Vicarage Gardens, Kensington, W.8, where he will be pleased to receive trade catalogues, samples, etc.

Mr. J. Kennedy Hawkes, A.R.I.B.A., of 27, Emperor's Gate, S.W.7, announces that his telephone number is now Fremantle 4401-2.

APPOINTMENT

To fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. J. H. Farrar, the L.C.C. has appointed Mr. William Arthur Eden, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A., to be in charge, under the direction of the Council's Architect, of the Historic Records work of the Architect's Department. His selection for the appointment was after public advertisement of the vacancy, there were 29 applicants. The salary is £1,002, rising to £1,143.

In his new appointment Mr. Eden will have the advantage of the experience and advice of Mr. J. H. Farrar for about two months. His responsibilities will include collaboration with the Council's Librarian in the preparation of London Survey volumes, advising the Council generally on London buildings of architectural or historic interest, and particularly on the architectural aspects and maintenance of buildings of special interest in the Council's possession (including the Iveagh Bequest, Kenwood, Marble Hill House, Twickenham, Prince Henry's Room, Strand, Rangers (or Chesterfield) House, Blackheath, and the Shaftesbury Memorial, Piccadilly Circus). He will also be completing the work of listing buildings of historic and architectural interest (under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947), which the L.C.C. is undertaking for most metropolitan boroughs on behalf of the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

The terms of Mr. Eden's appointment will enable him to accept an invitation from University College, London, to be Lecturer in the History of Architecture in England, with special responsibility for the course for the Certificate in the Preservation and Restoration of Historic Buildings. Mr. Eden's Lectureship at University College is the first of its kind in any British University.

Mr. Eden, who is 46 years of age, comes to the Council's service from Leeds, where he has been Head of the School of Architecture since 1948. He was educated at Stockton-on-Tees and Middlesbrough and received his professional training at the University of Liverpool School of Architecture and University College, London, Department of Town Planning. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquarians of London, and of the Institute of Landscape Architects, and is a member of several other societies, including the Architectural Association, London, the Classical Society and the Georgian Group. He has had professional and teaching experience in architecture and

planning, principally in Liverpool, where he was Lecturer in Architecture at the University from 1936 to 1941, and Lecturer-in-Charge of the Department of Civic Design from 1941 to 1947. His architectural work includes a housing scheme for the Worsborough (West Riding) Urban District Council. Mr. Eden has undertaken research work in civic design and was Acting Editor of *Town Planning Review* for six years. He has travelled widely in Europe and North Africa, and has published a number of books and articles on architectural and planning subjects.

CORRESPONDENCE

Visit to Holland

To the Editor of A. & B. N.

Sir.—Mr. Paine's article in the *Architect & Building News* of October 30 was an interesting and amusing account of impressions received during a two-week visit to Holland. However, some of his observations were delivered with such weight that a reader with no personal knowledge of the country might be misled on a number of points.

Mr. Paine, for example, credited Frank Lloyd Wright with indirect responsibility for the "bulk" of Dutch pre-war work. This, in his view, caused architects to break with their tradition of "large voids and vertical expression" so that now they are unable to develop naturally from their own past. This is really too great a simplification.

As well as that of Frank Lloyd Wright there was the influence of the pioneer "Stijl" group and the work of such Dutch architects as Oud, Rietveld, Duiker, Brinkmann and van der Vlugt. This was quite as powerful as that of Frank Lloyd Wright and entirely within the Dutch tradition of unsentimental and logical building. Buildings such as Rietveld's house at Utrecht, Oud's Kiefhoek suburb in Rotterdam and the van Nelle factory of Brinkmann and van der Vlugt were prime movers, stylistically speaking, and while Frank Lloyd Wright, via Dudek, left his mark on many buildings, so did Holland's own pioneers, and often, curiously enough, on the same buildings.

The bulk of Dutch pre-war work shows in fact no influence from either of these sources. The vast housing developments are, with few exceptions, simple building exercises in brick, as near to being styleless as it is possible to be. On the point of fenestration, it is true that, in Amsterdam, windows are often not more than half as big again as would be found in similar buildings in England, but in other cities they are invariably enormous. Frank Lloyd Wright's influence then, though powerful in a few architects, was generally very diluted, and did not interfere significantly with

the ingrained national habits of unpretentious building.

While paying tribute to the energy displayed in the rebuilding of Rotterdam, Mr. Paine dismissed the buildings themselves as mostly odd and occasionally ugly, but he made no mention of the very many post-war buildings which can be compared with anything built in this country since the late dawn of the modern movement. The work, for example, of van den Broek and Bakema, which includes offices, shops, schools, factories, dock buildings, a clinic and a petrol station (up to last August, that is) is of international standard, and has been treated as such in continental architectural magazines. The buildings of van Tijen and Maaskant, some of which I grant, do seem odd, were nevertheless designed by men who built in 1933 and 1937 two of the great buildings of this century. Since the war they have been working out their own development of the "international style," and the oddness may be due to complete originality; it is clearly not due to whimsey, as Mr. Paine suggested.

In general the impression I gained from Mr. Paine's article was that, apart from a brief spark of town-planning genius in the 1930's, he found contemporary Dutch architecture a pretty dull dog. My own view is that Holland is, particularly now, tremendously exciting for the visiting architect from Britain. Not only in Rotterdam, but wherever war damage has to be made good, buildings are rising which demonstrate their architects' conviction that modern architecture is neither dead nor suitable only for exhibitions. It is also a heady experience to sit on the first floor café terrace of a department store completed twelve months ago, while within view five equally large buildings are under construction, while on the pavement, the piles are being unloaded before work begins on a sixth.

I am, etc.,

JOHN WEEKS.

Development Charge

To the Editor of A. & B. N.

Sir.—To charge for development before it is made simply means that, as often as not, the attempt to develop is not made at all. The Socialist Government, in putting this obnoxious provision on the Statute Book, was admittedly sincere in its desire to arrest or prevent development by private enterprise, but a Conservative Government should not be content merely to modify a measure that has done and must continue to do incalculable harm.

The State, through taxation, is the owner of more than half the benefit of any development that succeeds, and makes no contribution to the losses of enterprise that fails. How foolish, therefore, to discourage enterprise!

It would cause much inconvenience to cancel and annul this pernicious impost, but such inconvenience is per-

fectly paltry when considered in relation to all the healthy development frustrated by its continuation in any form.

On the first publication of the Uthwatt report, in 1942, the Chairman of the Building Societies Association had "no hesitation in stating that in his opinion the first essential to the successful solution of post-war housing was dependent, almost entirely, on the rejection of the development rights recommendation," and that view still holds good for all except the believers in the nationalization of everything.

There are owners who are optimistic enough to count upon some share in a nebulous "global" sum of £300,000,000; there are also courageous developers who have already paid the demands of local authorities; these people have a vested interest which may be used to justify the continuation of this forbidding barrier to progress. But a vested interest, all of which has arisen within the last five years, is a very inadequate reason for perpetuating the notion that development is an offence to be expiated by a fine.

The development charge is no essential part of planning and its removal would not impair the rights and powers of authority to continue to regulate building activity.

I am, etc.,

SIR ERNEST BENN.

Essex, Cambridge and Herts Society of Architects Dinner

THE President of the Essex, Cambridgeshire and Herts Society of Architects, Mr. Harold Conolly, F.R.I.B.A., County Architect, presided at the Annual Dinner and Reception of the Society which was held in the newly renovated Shire Hall last Thursday week.

Mr. and Mrs. Conolly, with the Guest of Honour, Mr. Howard Robertson, M.C., A.R.A., P.R.I.B.A., S.A.D.G., President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and Mrs. Howard Robertson, and Mr. Anthony Dunnatt, A.R.I.B.A., Chairman of the Chelmsford Chapter of Architects, and Mrs. Dunnatt received over 200 members and guests.

In proposing the Toast of the R.I.B.A. and its Allied Societies, the President of the Society referred to the motto of the R.I.B.A., "For the benefit of the Citizens, and for the design of the Cities or Towns," which means that the architectural profession was profoundly interested in building for its own sake and for its effects both practical and aesthetic on the human race, irrespective of the sheer necessities of making a living. The profession had served the community very well indeed since the war in the fields of school buildings and Local Authority Housing. Standards of design had been raised to such a degree that we in

this country now lead the world. He would like to see the services of architects more widely employed in private house-building, where standards of construction and design were still in many cases below those of post-war local authority housing. It is gratifying to see that some members of this Society had received awards of Housing Medals and Diplomas from the Ministry for their schemes carried out for Local Authorities, and it would not be a bad idea if the Minister encouraged better designs for private houses and might even extend his medal and diploma idea to this field also.

The Royal Institute of British Architects, whose ties with the Allied Societies were likened to those of the United Kingdom with the members of the British Commonwealth of Nations, had many problems to face in the near future. Mr. Howard Robertson, the newly elected President of the R.I.B.A., was the Guest of Honour that evening, and no man was better qualified than he to tackle those problems. He had had a most distinguished career, having designed hospitals, schools, colleges, liner interiors, Government pavilions at overseas exhibitions, and had been partly responsible for the design of the United Nations headquarters building in New York. His books had been much read by the profession. He was an Associate of the Royal Academy, and in 1949 received the Royal Gold Medal, the highest distinction which could be conferred on an architect.

The President of the R.I.B.A., in responding to the Toast, referred to the architectural achievements in the three counties where special problems in the field of school building and in the development of five New Towns were being successfully tackled. He stressed the importance of respecting in contemporary design the best of our architectural heritage of using local material and of adequate attention to the siting of our buildings.

Mr. R. O. Foster, F.R.I.B.A., proposing the Toast of the Patrons of Architecture, paid tribute to the Local Authorities who had to a large extent replaced the old-time private Patrons.

Ald. Bennett, J.P., Chairman of the Essex County Council, responded to the Toast and appealed for less austerity in design, and for "buildings with a smile on their faces."

His Worship the Mayor of Chelmsford, Ald. Hugh Wright, M.B.E., J.P., proposed the Toast of the Society, and Mr. Anthony Dannatt, A.R.I.B.A., responded.

The Guests were proposed by Mr. Richard Sheppard, F.R.I.B.A., A.A. Dipl., and a response was made by the Right Rev. Dudley Narborough, the Bishop of Colchester.

During dinner, music was provided by The Essex Yeomanry String Band, by kind permission of Lt.-Col. W. B. Gosling, M.B.E., T.D., D.L.

IN PARLIAMENT

London Builders' Conference

The operations of the London Builders' Conference were described to the House of Commons on November 7 by Mr. Percy Wells, who asked that they should be referred to the Monopolies Commission and this "parasitical organization" removed from a fundamental industry.

He said that behind its innocent-sounding title existed an organization, with ramifications all over the country, which exercised a control over building tenders which not only made a farce of competitive tendering but also extracted large sums from building owners for which no service was performed. The fundamental obligation on members was to report in confidence to the chairman the price at which it was proposed to tender. Mr. Wells gave examples of how the tenders were averaged, the "fair price" taken, and a surcharge added from which unsuccessful tenderers received a share.

These operations, he said, had been described in many quarters as a racket. The extent to which they had increased the cost of buildings it was impossible to tell, but it must be tremendous. The activities of the Conference had been condemned by the R.I.B.A., the Chartered Surveyors' Institute, and the Builder.

Mr. Eccles, Minister of Works, said it was clear from the constitution of the London Builders' Conference that it contemplated arrangements which must limit competition and raise the prices of buildings. No Government could remain indifferent to them. It might be that the obvious thing to do was to refer the matter to the Monopolies Commission; but that was a long and cumbrous procedure, and he wanted quicker results if he could get them. He would like to try first to persuade the builders in this Conference to look again closely at their arrangements, and to end them in the national interest—and their own.

To-day there was plenty of work for the building industry. There would be more steel next year, and there would be more licences and more work to do with the present labour force. It was therefore of the highest importance that any arrangements which added to prices should not be accepted. The Ministry of Works had taken some steps already. His predecessor, who was alarmed by the actions of the L.B.C., decided to require every firm which tendered for Ministry contracts to sign—or refuse to sign—a certificate which asked for three assurances—a declaration that they were not parties to any scheme or arrangement under which (a) they communicated the amount of a tender to any person or body before the contract was let; (b) no other tenderer for the same work was reimbursed for part of his tendering costs; and (c) the tender

price was adjusted by reference directly or indirectly to the prices of any other tenders.

That was a measure of protection, but he was not sure that they had gone far enough. The R.I.B.A. had endorsed the use of the certificate, but not all architects had insisted on it. If they had, he did not see how the conference could have continued in existence. It might be considered reprehensible that the Ministry and the architectural profession had not been able entirely to deal with this organization. The reason might be that the whole system of tendering left much to be desired. The receipt of a licence was a long-awaited signal to go ahead, the building owner was impatient to start at once, and the contractor often had to work on insufficient information. The result was a strong temptation to protect themselves against modifications and increases in cost not apparent in the original documents from the architect. That was all very bad, but it did not mean that simply to drop the conference methods would cure the situation. They had to go to the root of the matter, and improve the combined operation of architect, quantity surveyor and contractor. The lead should come from the R.I.B.A., and the Ministry of Works would give all the help they could.

He wanted these conference methods "to go quietly." He wanted the building trade to help him to get rid of all restrictive practices. The national interest demanded it. The restrictive practices stood in the way of doing the maximum amount of work at the lowest reasonable cost. How could he ask the building trade unions to consider abandoning any restrictive practices if it was known that the employers were making use of this conference arrangement?

He was against nationalization and state control, but what more serious argument for nationalization or state control could be found than an arrangement between employers for fixing prices and limiting competition? The consumers' interest could be safeguarded by either the free choice of supply, or state control of prices. He did not believe in state control of prices, therefore he wanted to see the consumer satisfied that he was safeguarded by free and fair competition. The building industry need have no fear either of unemployment or of nationalization if they would keep their costs down and do good work at competitive prices—and be seen by the public to be doing so. There was here a very deep interest for them in their own future. He hoped they would not overlook the importance of freedom, and the price we paid for it was fair dealing and good service to the public. If there could be a quick settlement of this matter it would be to the satisfaction of the House and the country.

THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE P.R.I.B.A.

Extracts from the Paper read by MR. HOWARD ROBERTSON, A.R.A. before the Royal Institute of British Architects on November 4

FEW people will deny that one of the greatest pleasures of existence is to visit other places and other countries. Contact with different climates, or nationalities, or scenes, provides an endless satisfaction and stimulus. And a major interest against this fresh background are the customs, manners and idiosyncracies of people and races, especially when interpreted through the medium of the arts, and of architecture in particular.

So strong is the magnet of the visual arts, architecture, painting, sculpture, that people are drawn across oceans and continents just to see and feel what human beings have been impelled to express and create, thereby satisfying one of the deepest of human urges and, incidentally, enriching their country and the lives of their fellow creatures.

The prestige and attraction of great works of art never perish. They outlast in permanence of esteem, and certainly affection, all the great accomplishments of scientists, warriors, and statesmen. Only music and literature endure in like degree, but their appeal is physically more circumscribed.

This aspect of the arts, and I speak of British architecture especially, is but indifferently apprehended, and appreciated chiefly on the plane of the material benefits accruing. That our cathedrals and great houses and charming villages attract the tourist trade is admitted at the financial level. But that a continuance of the attitude of mind and spirit which brought them forth is a duty owed to our national inheritance, and a constant necessity to our spiritual development, is much less understood: whereas it should, in fact, be reckoned as a vital part of our programme for maintaining our position as a cultural force and influence.

To define architecture with a bluff terseness as "shelter" was a popular gambit with the sponsors of the functionalist creed when it was being developed before this war. The term was very properly used to clear the ground. But like all over-simplifications, it became dangerous. For to accept it without qualification would be to endorse a universal expression of building based primarily upon the spread of international structural techniques. This would logically lead to indulge again in over-simplification, to the emergence of an international architectural expression, adopted regardless of peoples or climates; something imposed by the sheer power of techniques if not by the remorseless

fanaticism of the disciples of an "ism."

Not many moments of reflection are necessary to show how dangerous it would be to regard art and architecture as subject only to the rational factor and the pressure of a kind of world mass-production, the ostensible motive power of which would be the satisfaction of material and economic needs. Out of this process there would almost certainly evolve new minimum standards, diminishing like those sets of boxes within a box. Apart from the crushing of the humanistic spirit, there would come the corollary of the awful monotony of high speed travel, faster and faster, by supersonic or atomic machines, to visit places and their peoples who would be living, working, and worshipping in buildings as like as like to those we had just left. A world, I fear, tending towards a major and soul-destroying boredom.

We are happily still far from such a depressing era, but the architect and those who employ him should be warned, vigilantly on guard, and prepared to fight tooth and nail for the freedom of individual, local and national expression to exist.

Paul Valéry defined architecture as 'the most finished, the most total of the arts.' It can never remain as that if it ever comes about that pre-planned architecture is solidified into types and purveyed ready prepared, in an officially sponsored package. The architect himself has to remember that architecture is an art, and that it is part of his mission to remain an artist with cultivated sensibilities. He must strive, whatever his employ, to maintain his identity as a professional man with independent views and vision in a world where circumstances encourage the acceptance of an employee mentality.

Buildings—houses in particular—have to-day to be designed for cheap and speedy erection to meet a desperate need. Plans of standard type are produced, with elevations more or less off the peg. This may be a present necessity, but one hopes it will be considered an undesirable policy for domestic needs over the long-term period. Let us not lose awareness of the psychological dangers of excessive repetition, and consider on the practical side the slum-creation possibilities of multiplying repetitive types based on expediency alone. Although manufactured homes can fill specific needs and have attractive export possibilities,

there must surely be for us some better solution than that of evolving a packaged architecture, which incidentally produces its own peculiar problems of obsolescence. The greatest attention should, I feel, be paid to conserving our existing buildings and to encouraging regional traditions, and to ensuring continuity in the erection of a few really fine quality buildings, as one would plant a new tree, to replace those that have fallen through old age or misadventure.

It seems to me that the key to avoiding the pitfalls of sheer expediency lies in studying our building needs from a dual angle; on the one hand that of prime necessity, and on the other that of national ideals. Following such study would come a programme for the practical means of fulfilment, embodying, as I think it should, a fresh approach to the possibilities of closer collaboration between architects and the building industry; including amongst other aims that of maintaining the local and regional materials and crafts which in the past have made our small country so entrancing to explore. On this latter point, I feel that the French have been well advised in rebuilding the core of a number of their historic war-damaged towns and villages in a manner contemporary yet respecting local feeling and tradition. In a few years the identities of these places will probably be found to emerge comparatively intact. The level of the design and work is frequently uneven, but the intention is praiseworthy and far-sighted.

A further task is to find some way of ensuring the decencies of planning and design without excess of baffling regulation and control. Better here perhaps a few mistakes and failures than a gradual killing of the adventurous creative spirit. Architecture can never thrive in any society which comes to accept its notions of what is seemingly from regulations or the findings of committees, however qualified their members. It must find its own level. History shows that buildings of merit are not always recognized at once. But if there is a strongly nurtured culture in a country and education puts more stress on the importance of orderliness and good manners, the worst aberrations would gradually cease to happen; and the minor ones remain only as warnings or possibly as intriguing curiosities.

You will gather that I, personally, am worried over the likelihood of a

failure, not so much to maintain our architectural heritage in the National Trust sense, as to define a policy to renew and enrich it. I feel, and fear, a decreasing appreciation of quality, the lack of affectionate care in sitting and designing in suitable materials many of such buildings as are important enough to have an impact on the limited spaces of this little island. Every architectural achievement enriches, but each blemish or blunder helps to whittle away our dwindling national store of architectural beauty. It is true that between the very good and the deplorable we can distinguish an architectural zone of perhaps decent but undistinguished accomplishment, a sort of multi-purpose production, an *'architecture d'ameublement'*—to borrow a simile from Constant Lambert. Such a non-committal safety-first architecture develops all too readily under the stress of present-day conditions.

To restore one's ebbing confidence, there is happily to be found a rich vein of architectural talent in this country, and it has been tapped to considerable effect by some of our more enlightened public authorities. Architects working in a contemporary spirit have excelled themselves in many instances; in schools, which reach a high level of accomplishment; in factory buildings and in industrial design; and in housing, both in houses and flats, many of which are planned and outwardly designed with a skill unsurpassed in other continents. There is here only one sad reservation to be made, that in so many cases the materials are, through force of economics, unworthy of the design, while in others has been attempted a brave-new-world look which will not long resist the rigours of our climate. An architecture for the British Isles must be conceived not for the benefit of the photographer on completion, but as one that really weathers. And where we lapse in that respect we show failure to appreciate one of the best aspects of our own fine tradition.

I have spoken of some aspects of our architectural problem, but now I would refer more specifically to the architect himself; for in safeguarding the future of our countryside and cities it is in the last resort the architect who is the mainstay of our hopes.

The architect (and I apologise to those here who know him better than I do) is a man of qualifications and responsibilities so diverse that there is scarcely any section of the building or engineering industry wherein someone does not firmly believe that he could do the job much better. (In my more irritable moments I have felt how satisfying it would be to have this hypo-

thetical person in the office for six months and let him both try his hand and break his heart.)

Architecture is a service to the public, and that is something apt to be forgotten; but it should be nevertheless practised as an art, as something more than a commercial pursuit. The qualified architect is a custodian of standards, a trustee for his clients' interests, a judge of the suitability of sites and buildings, and one who spends much of his life between the upper millstone of his clients' needs and the nether one of a stony finance. For him, therefore, business knowledge is obligatory; and having to deal with enactments and councils and corporations, he should be a bit of lawyer, too. He should, of course, possess an alert knowledge of engineering, structure and materials old and new, of drainage, heating, lighting, interior decoration and furnishings, and the specific requirements of many specialized buildings. He must also be a psychologist, understand all men and some women, have infinite patience and philosophy, and be prepared to be occasionally rung up out of hours by agonized and peremptory voices. He must have the habit of committees and their chairmen and come to know which type does not understand line drawings and the *neue Sachlichkeit* (the new Practicality). He must be capable, when roused, of being a forceful salesman, but on other occasions must learn to repress an anxious eagerness. He must be familiar with all questions of licences, permits, town planning enactments, and the latest and stiffest hurdles constantly erected by resourceful legislators in front of any new building project. Like a surgeon or a doctor, he must keep abreast of all research and inventions, and read much more than the equivalent of the *Lancet* or the *Practitioner*.

It is just as well that he should be presentable, clean, cultivated, knowledgeable about painting and sculpture, and able to put up a good case when the inevitable storm breaks over applied art in his buildings and the Philistines come upon him. He must, finally, be prepared for capricious and uncontrollable variations in his annual income on the all-or-nothing scale.

Should any builder, quantity surveyor or engineer wish to lay a claim to the above qualifications as additional to his own, I can only conclude that he is not fully occupied in his own trade or profession, or that he is looking blissfully—altogether too blissfully—over the garden wall. Nevertheless the wind of criticism and disquiet has blown against the profession of architect, including gusts from within the industry itself. Professor Gropius, for example,

late of Harvard, would like to see the architect functioning also as a master builder. And a contractor, Mr. Levitt, who has built hundreds of small houses in the U.S.A., has said in public that the architect is just a headache; though the odd thing is that in many speculative building enterprises an architect, of a sort, can be dimly discerned in the shadows of the back-room.

Most practising architects to-day have come to realize that it is fitting to design and build in the spirit of our time. But many of us dislike to be pushed about too obviously by any clique or preached at by propagandists. With maturity in our professional life comes the thought that gradualness is not to be despised; that quality endures where excitement quickly pallis; that no building should be critically judged in isolation from its context and without knowledge of all the factors in the particular building problem; and that conditions of climate, and considerations of maintenance, are major considerations in designing.

Lastly, worth considering by ourselves in relation to the future, is a reflection that the late Sir Edwin Lutyens made—and on this I will conclude. What he said is this: "Granted new materials, it is easy to produce novelty. But it is just as difficult as ever to create a work of art."

Leverhulme Research Fellowships, 1953

Application is invited for Fellowships and Grants in aid of research. The Fellowships and Grants are intended for senior workers who are prevented by routine duties or pressure of other work from carrying out research. They are limited to British-born subjects normally resident in the United Kingdom. In exceptional circumstances the Trustees may waive the condition as to residence.

The Trustees are also prepared to consider applications from groups of workers engaged upon co-operative programmes of research particularly from those engaged upon long-distance programmes.

The duration of the awards will not normally extend over more than two years or less than three months and the amount will depend on the nature of the research and the circumstances of the applicant.

Forms of application may be obtained from the Secretary, Miss M. Branney, Leverhulme Research Fellowships, 3/5, Salisbury Square, London, E.C.4, telephone City 1910.

Applications must be received on or before December 31, 1952. Awards will be announced in May and will date from September 1, 1953.

A VISIT TO LEITZIGRABEN

BY NORMAN
WESTWOOD, A.R.I.B.A.

LEITZIGRABEN is a new "neighbourhood" built on comparatively level ground lying to the west of Zurich. It is so much more exciting than the average suburb, that in trying to convey something of the pleasure and interest it gave us, we have had to avoid using this word even in a technical sense.

We approached it in the most prosaic way—by tram. Perhaps this out-dated means of locomotion added zest to our appreciation of the modern schools, factories and houses which awaited us. To whet the appetite, we could see from afar, breaking the skyline, the "Y" shaped towers of Steiner's eleven-storey flats.

As these last-mentioned buildings will be dealt with more fully in a future issue of the *A. & B. N.*, we will not attempt to describe them in detail but merely remark, in combination with their single storey block of shops and garages and future restaurant, how admirably they demonstrate the advantages, architecturally, of punctuating housing with tall dominating buildings. The freely planned open layout



General view of two "Y" shaped blocks of flats by A. H. Steiner, the City Architect. In the right foreground can be seen the end of the single-storey block of shops. Behind these are lock-up garages. Note the trees which have recently been planted, some 40ft tall. The frame is expressed in grey and the panel walls are white "Tyrolean" finish.



Above: The drinking fountain in the forecourt to the open-air baths. Architect: Max Frisch. The bowl is in a cream coloured terrazzo supported on a bush hammered concrete base.

Below: A small drinking fountain and paved area at the N.E. end of the general bath. The irregular flag stones are of contrasting tones.



surrounding them has already been planted with trees, some at least 40ft high, so that in a very short space of time their outlines and surfaces will be softened and animated by the cast of shadows of moving foliage, and the buildings will be properly related to their site.

We crossed the road, with its wide park-like verge of grass, informal planting and meandering footpaths, and approached the small forecourt leading to the open-air swimming baths. This space is used by people waiting to obtain their tickets and avoids crowding on the pavement. It is furnished with trees, seats and a charmingly designed drinking fountain. Incidentally, Zurich has a great many fountains of this type. It is indeed a pity that this simple means of adding interest and convenience to our cities is not more widely adopted.

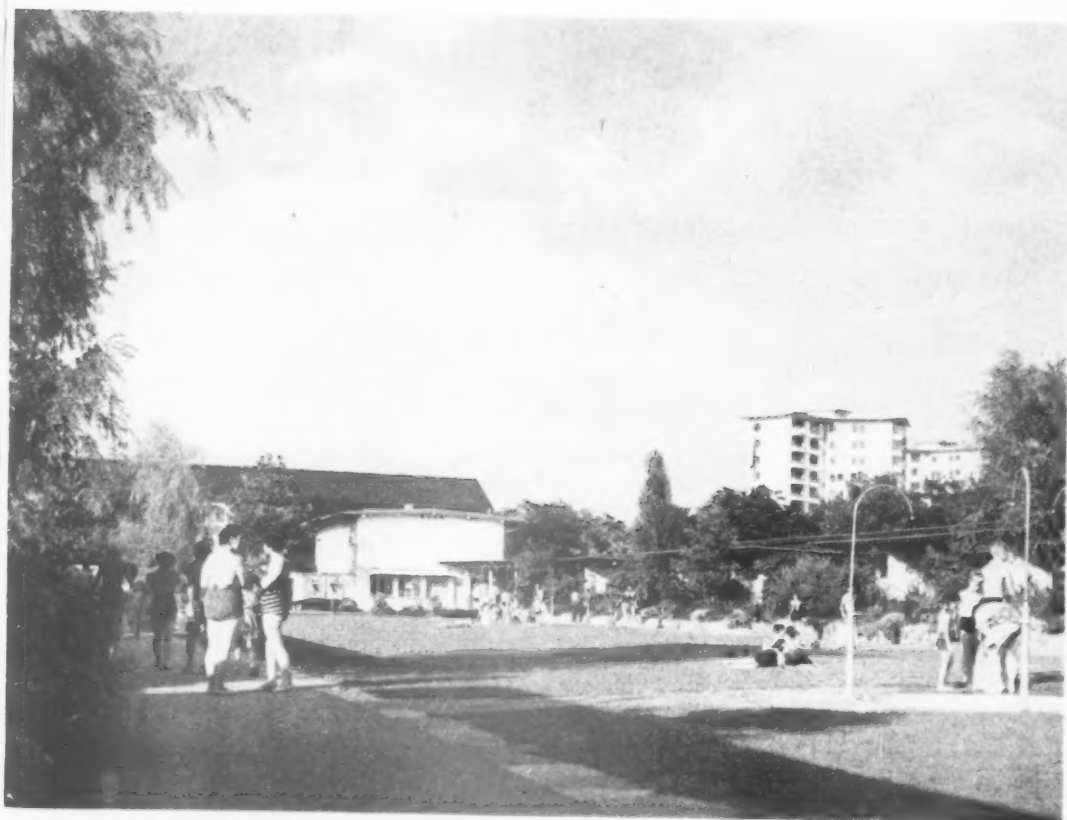
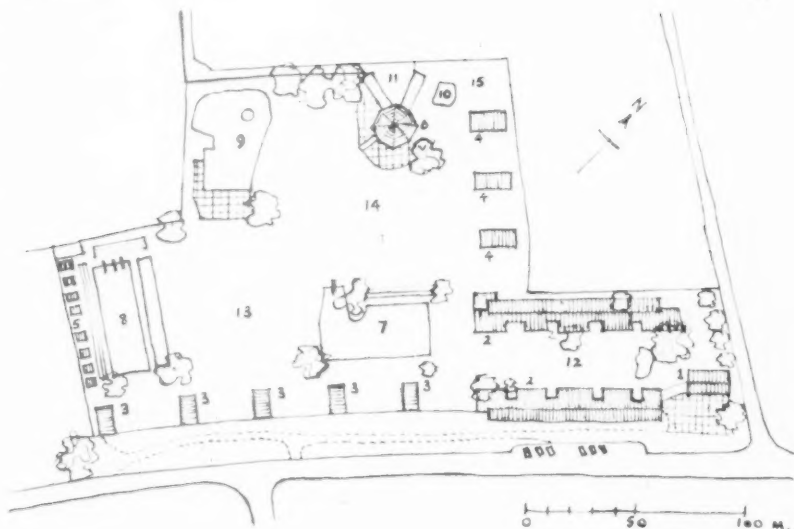
The baths and surrounding recreational areas were designed by the architect, Max Frisch, to serve a population of some 80,000 people who live rather too far away from the lake to make frequent visits. The site adjoins an existing sports ground, and with it forms a complete centre for the neighbourhood, and was planned to cater for swimmers and non-swimmers in equal proportions. The scheme consists primarily of three baths, one for schools and swimming sports, a general bath for ordinary purposes, and a shallow one for non-swimmers. Tickets, varying in price, can be obtained, one just for entry, or for swimmers there are two prices according to the types of changing accommodation required. If you use the communal changing rooms, you are given a key to a small lock-up cage for your clothes, etc., or if you wish you can have a private cubicle in one of the smaller buildings. All keys are fitted with clips in order that they may be attached to bathing costumes.

It was immediately apparent that the first thought of the planner had been to produce a pleasantly informal layout of baths and buildings, carefully avoiding any feeling of

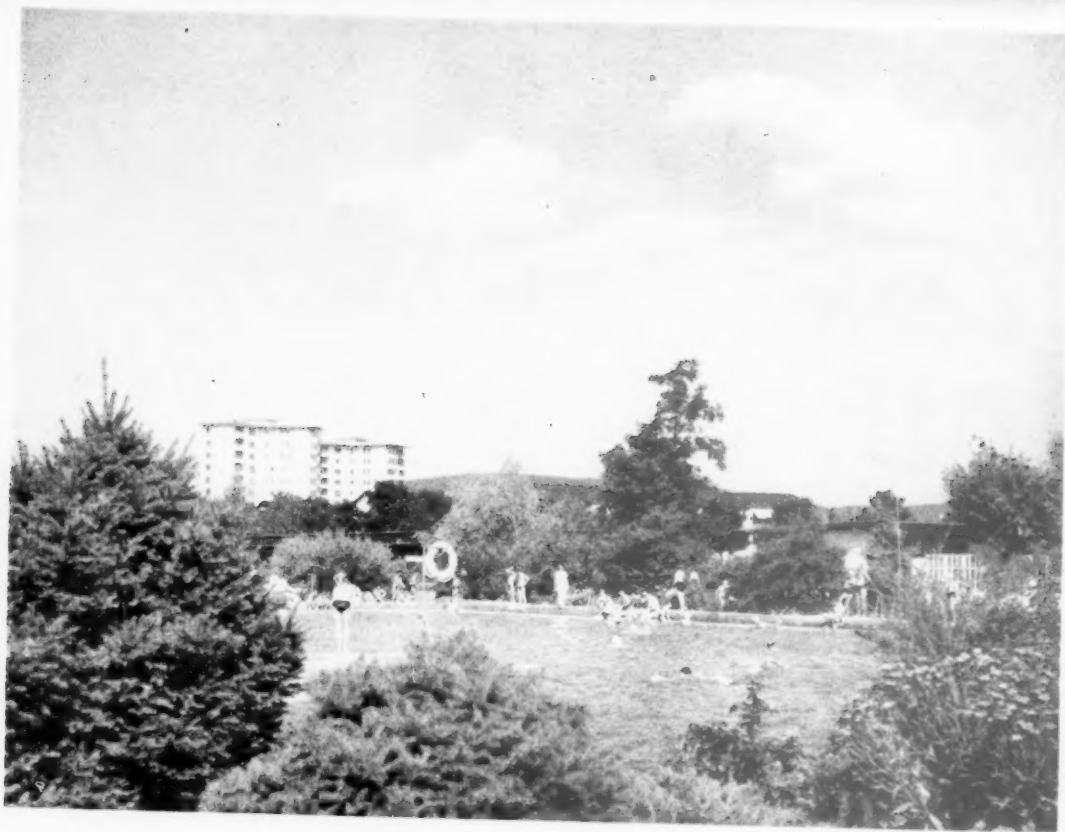
LAYOUT PLAN — OPEN-AIR SWIMMING BATHS.
ARCHITECT: MAX FRISCH, ENGINEER
WALTER GRAF & SON.

Key

1. Administration Block and Caretaker's flat.
2. Communal changing rooms: Male and female.
3. Men's cubicles.
4. Women's cubicles.
5. Cubicles for schools.
6. Restaurant.
7. General swimming bath.
8. Bath for schools and swimming sports.
9. Non-swimmers' pool.
10. Splashing basin.
11. Service yard.
12. Garden area.
13. Playing lawn.
14. Main sun-bathing area.
15. Mothers' and children's area.



The garden area looking towards the entrance. On the right are the men's communal changing rooms. Note the asphalt path edged with natural stone breaking up any hard line between it and the central lawn. Shallow foot baths with showers over are arranged at intervals in the grass.



Above: View from the S.W. of the general bath with Steiner's flats in the background. The general effect is of a pool set in a garden.



Left: The general pool, showing the main approach through one of the foot baths. By surrounding the pool with informal planting it is impossible to enter without first going through a foot bath. Even the sides of the foot baths are capped with sharp serrated metal edges. Showers are also provided and appeared to be used by the majority of swimmers.

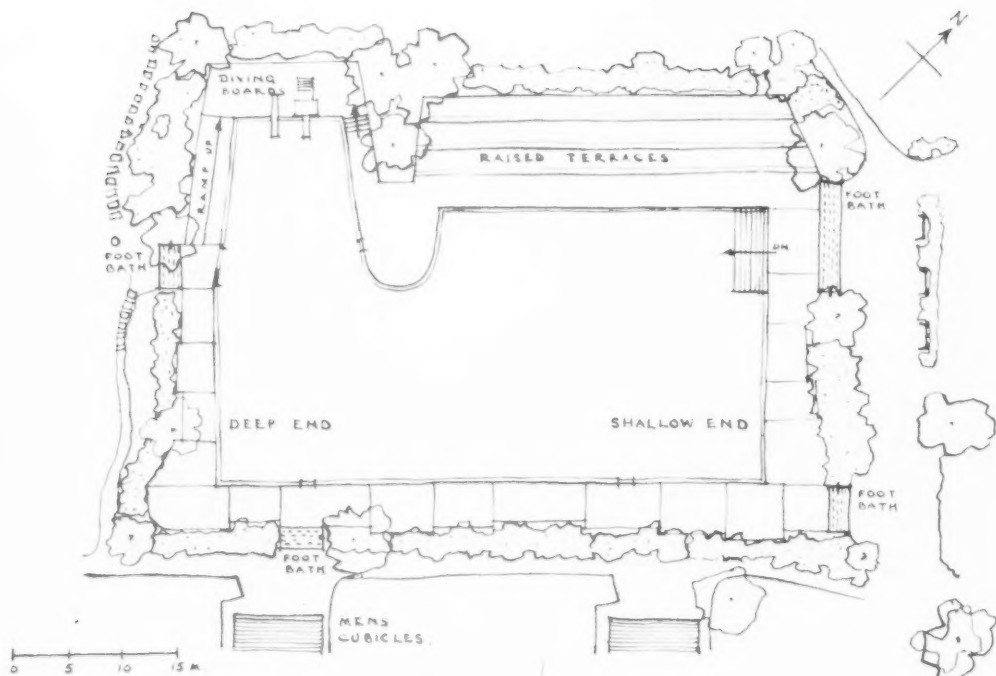
Looking towards the main entrance from the garden area, with an informally shaped pool in the foreground. The many kinds of plants used around this pool were most interesting and illustrate the use of contrasting types of foliage.

All the photographs illustrating this article were taken by the author.

institutionalism. As can readily be seen from the block plan, the building requirements have been broken down into small units and placed on the perimeter of the site, leaving the largest area possible for playing and sunbathing in the centre.

The buildings themselves, except for the restaurant, have been purposely lost by careful planting of selected kinds of trees and bushes, so that the visitor is hardly conscious of

their presence. This softening of rigid form underlies the whole scheme, and is also illustrated by the treatment of paved areas. As can be seen from the photographs, many of these are flagged in a random manner with natural stone left to melt into the adjoining lawns or planting. In the few places where asphalt has been used it is also edged with stone, thus obtaining the same effect. Around the general bath the concrete edge has been left to an irregular line.



Shrubs and flowers have been planted in a free manner, not only to lose the rigid shape of the bath, but also to form a barrier to ensure that the users pass through shallow foot baths before entering the main pool. (See block plan.)

Even the two long communal changing rooms have been purposely divided into projecting bays to avoid a hard appearance. The small administration buildings where tickets are obtained, has a first floor for the caretaker's flat;

the two storeys giving a slight emphasis to the entrance. To cater for the number of people who go there to enjoy themselves, (average weekly attendance in 1949 was 23,000), the buildings and landscaping seemed admirable. The small grassed areas between the cubicle buildings could be used for quiet sunbathing whilst the larger open spaces (13 and 14 on plan) were available for the mass of people who prefer a crowd.

The charm and informality of the layout has been helped by the undulating ground which rises to its highest point at the octagonal restaurant which consequently has a wide view over the site from the first floor balcony. The building is attractively designed with a snack bar and kitchen on the ground floor and restaurant above. This seats about 30 people in the enclosed centre portion and 80 on the surrounding balcony, which is approached by a wide external staircase carried over an informal pool. There is a service road leading to the back of the building terminating in a yard between two single storey storage wings. The colour scheme, as for most of the buildings, is white with a dull red colour to the wooden underside of the eaves. In this building the eaves are supported on beams bearing on eight raking wooden posts; the centre portion and balcony floor are reinforced concrete.

The filtration plant lies centrally between the three baths and is completely hidden below ground at the southern end of the non-swimmers pool.

After spending a very pleasant afternoon at the baths we found little to criticize, the only important feature which we thought disappointing was the placing of the diving boards at the general pool, and the design of the boards themselves.



At this pool there is nowhere to relax and watch the diving, as the terrace is round the corner. Similarly, if you sit outside, owing to the flowers surrounding the bath, no good view is possible. Diving can be one of the most fascinating things to watch, and it was a pity better arrangements had not been made. The boards and diving platforms themselves were lacking in imaginative design.

However, we came from the baths having confirmed our opinion as to the great advantage in schemes of this kind of free planning over a more formal approach. We also have a vivid memory of planting at its very best.

Many interesting buildings besides those mentioned are going up in this district but, unfortunately, we did not have time to study them in detail. We had a brief look at two buildings of interest. The first was a well designed factory for "Coca-Cola." The little factory in its rural setting, in no way spoilt the otherwise residential area. We are not "Coke" fans but under the long canopy we could have been willing victims of clever publicity and spent hours watching the bottling process being carried out in ultra hygienic conditions in full view behind plate glass.

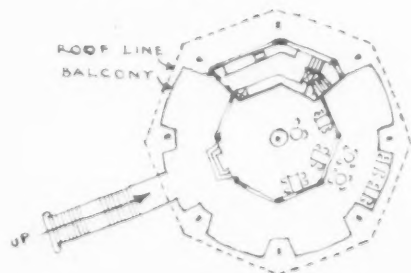
The second building was the filling station illustrated. Although perhaps not in the very top class architecturally, it was so much better than most we have seen, that it was well worth recording. The canopy appears to be rather unnecessarily heavy, but at night when lit by the flush lights in its soffit, the effect should be interesting. The supporting columns were a model of Swiss craftsmanship, each is faced with finely detailed metal slats having a satin finish.

It is difficult to think of any towns in our country where a visit to the suburbs could be so rewarding or show such a generally high standard of design. It is indeed a challenge to the architects of our new towns.

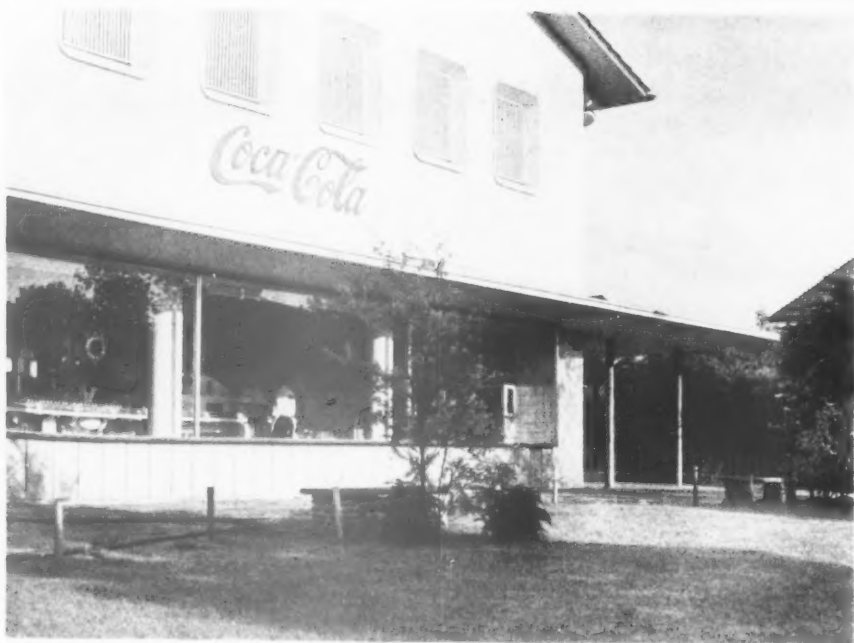
The Restaurant (See plan and section). The ground floor contains the kitchen and a snack bar counter, where food may be bought and taken away. The restaurant is approached by the staircase to the left of the picture, which crosses over an informal pool. Surrounding the enclosed centre portion of the Restaurant is an open balcony, seating about 80 people, projecting out between the raking wooden supports to the roof. The colour scheme is white with the underside of the roof painted a dull red.



SECTION



FIRST FLOOR RESTAURANT



Factory for Messrs. "Coca-Cola." The interior of the end of the factory illustrated has been thrown open by using a large plate-glass window, so that the public may watch the bottling plant in action. Even seats are provided for the purpose. It appeared to be an effective piece of advertising coupled with good design. The main entrance to the factory is under the canopy to the right of the picture. The stalleriser below the window is carried out in blue mosaic and the walling generally is a white rendered finish with a rough texture. The lettering is red.

Petrol Filling Station. The canopy over the pumps is supported on columns faced with narrow strips of satin finished metal, and the underside is faced with fibrous plaster with light fittings let in flush.

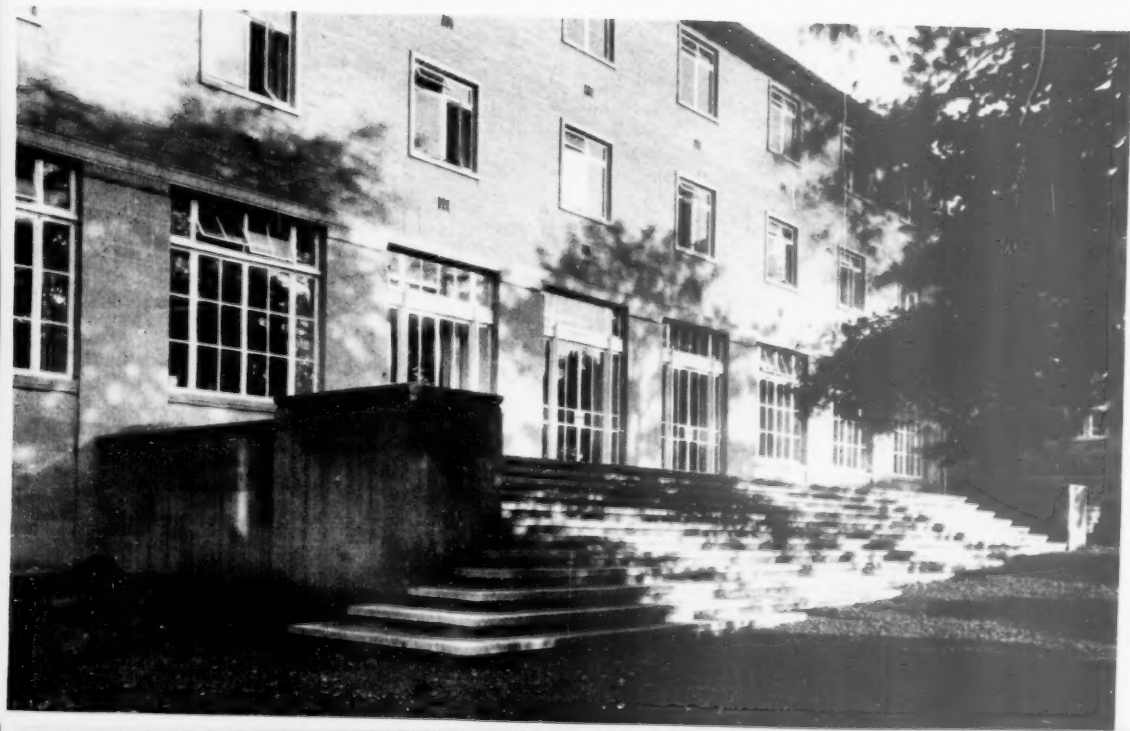


ETHEL WILLIAMS
HALL OF RESIDENCE
KING'S COLLEGE
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE

ARCHITECTS :
EDWARDS AND
MANBY, M.A.B., Arch.,
F.A.R.I.B.A.

RIGHT : THE MAIN
ENTRANCE

BELOW : COMMON
ROOM TERRACE



AWARDED THE R.I.B.A.
ARCHITECTURE BRONZE
MEDAL IN THE AREA
OF THE NORTHERN
ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION

***The Ethel Williams
Hall of Residence,
Longbenton,
Newcastle-on-Tyne***

THE R.I.B.A. has awarded its Bronze Medal to Messrs. Edwards and Manby, Architects of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in recognition of the merits of their building, the Ethel Williams Hall of Residence for King's College at Longbenton. This award was made by a jury appointed to select the work best deserving of such recognition among buildings completed during the five years ended December 31, 1951, in the area of the Northern Architectural Association.

The Ethel Williams Hall is so named after the late Dr. Ethel Williams, a well-known medical practitioner on Tyneside and a pioneer in the field of women's education and social work.

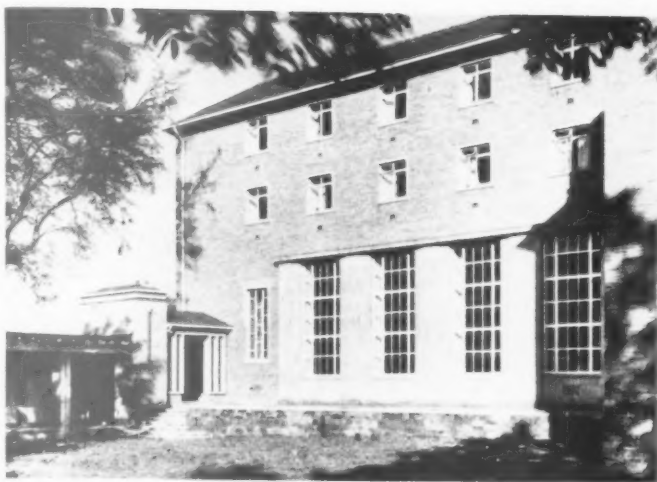
The building provides accommodation for 95 students, 8 members of the teaching staff and 10 resident domestic staff.

Each student has a bed-sitting room and each unit of the building is supplied with laundry, drying rooms, bathrooms, lavatories and tea kitchen. The Common Rooms comprise dining hall served from an up-to-date and mechanically equipped kitchen, music rooms and a small waiting room for boy friends.

The building has been designed to make the fullest use of a tree-planted site and existing garden, and to exploit in full measure its varying levels.

The aim has been to provide the atmosphere of a home as distinct from an institution, and this has been achieved by the scheme of furnishing and decoration.

Each girl's room is furnished with a divan bed, a built-in wardrobe, a coffee table, writing desk, an easy chair, an occasional chair, decorative rug and curtains, etc., and the colour scheme for each room varies according to the orientation of the room. Colour and the choice of fabrics



THE DINING HALL WING, LOGGIA AND TERRACE





THE SENIOR COMMON ROOM

Ethel Williams Hall of Residence

DAIS AND HIGH TABLE
IN THE DINING ROOM

have done much to break down the institutional character.

The girls are happy here and have good reason to be, but the scheme is not yet complete, for it is intended to build an all-purpose hall as soon as a generous benefactor can be found. Such a hall will serve as a general meeting hall, lecture hall, ball-room and gymnasium. The building of a chapel will complete the amenities and provide in the whole scheme a collegiate development not only equal to those in the older universities, but vastly improved and more up to date in its planning and



THE NORTH WING

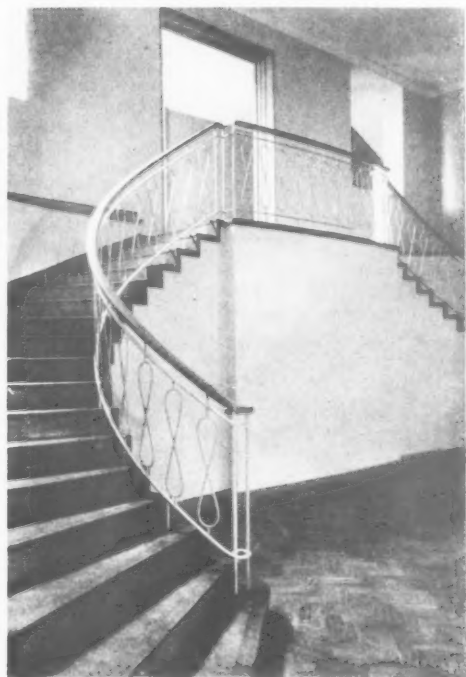
equipment as a background for University education in the twentieth century. The design is so simple that much depends on the excellence of the craftsmanship, and the work of Messrs. Stanley Miller Ltd., of Newcastle, the general contractors, contributes much to the success of the scheme, and the architects must share with them the credit for its success.



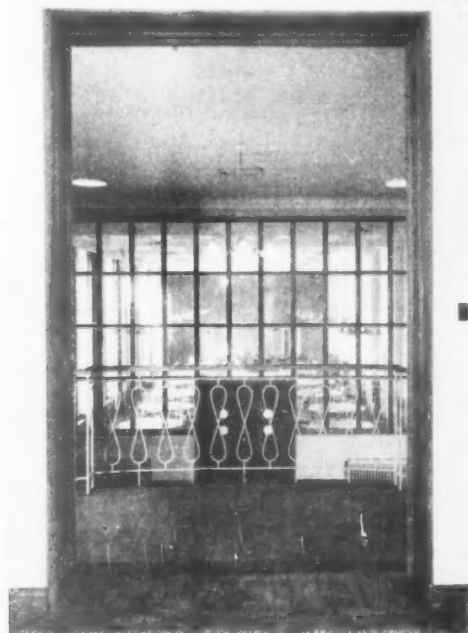
TYPICAL GIRL'S ROOM

architects:

Edwards & Manby



FOYER STAIRCASE



GLAZED SCREEN BETWEEN
FOYER AND DINING ROOM

Professor Edwards was the last winner of the R.I.B.A. Medal for his building for Physical Chemistry which is part of the extensive scheme of development for King's College.

The quantity surveyors were Messrs. J. P. Allen & Hill, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and the heating engineers, Messrs. Henry Walker, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The building was built with sand-faced Jacobean bricks supplied by the Buckley Junction Metallic Brick Company, and are purpose made facings 1 1/2 in. x 5 in. x 1 1/2 in. ; artificial stone by the Northern Cast Stone Co. ; natural stone was

obtained from Springwell Quarry, County Durham. The roof is covered with Welsh slates, and the windows were supplied by Messrs. Williams and Williams of Chester. Furnishings and fabrics were supplied by Messrs. Russell Furnishings Ltd., London, and Messrs. Heals, Tottenham Court Road, London.

PUBLIC WORKS AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

CONSIDERING how quickly these shows come and go, it was a welcome change to find at this annual Exhibition so many articles with improved appearance or mechanically more efficient since they were last on view. For Public Works Contractors, Builders and particularly the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, here was as useful a cross-section of plant, materials and printed matter in a wide field of interest as one could wish to find under one roof without getting footsore.

Opened by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, Mr. Harold Macmillan, on November 3, the Exhibition closed five days later on November 8.

Exhibited here for the first time by the makers of the now well-known "Ant" mobile hoists, THE BRITISH HOIST AND CRANE CO., LTD., was a new portable house building crane, which should prove a useful piece of plant for the contractor employed on multiple housing schemes. Designed not only to elevate materials or prefabricated components but also to assist placing them in position when they are too heavy to be manhandled, the crane is claimed to cover every part of a pair of semi-detached houses. It is capable of lifting from a 5-10cwt load, which can be hoisted, traversed or slewed into position by the operation of one control lever and the power of a single prime mover—either diesel or petrol engine. With the exception of slewing, each movement has an automatic return to the brake or safety position. In addition to normal coverage it is

claimed that the jib may be lifted or raised to give a maximum hook lift of 48-50ft, if so required. The whole unit may be brought on the site by three or four men and operated by two.

On view at the stand of WINGET, LTD., was their new H.T.H. Weigh Batching hydraulically operated tilting mixer, which is claimed to incorporate all the requirements of B.S.S. 1305. The mixing cycle from lifting the hopper to emptying the drum takes approximately 55 seconds, with every movement operated by a single lever which has only three positions for the cycle of operations. Water is mechanically dispensed in quantity which may be predetermined, and metering down to 1lb or 1/10 of an Imperial gallon is claimed. The hopper can be raised to 65°, which is 15° better than B.S.S. The capacity of the mixer is 14/10 cu ft, and it can be supplied with diesel or petrol engine or standard electric motor.

Two new pieces of equipment for road clearing were exhibited on the stand of JOHNSTON BROS. (CONTRACTORS), LTD. The accumulation of grit and mud in road channels is a constant problem which an implement called the Channel Scraper and Elevator has been designed to help by saving time and aiding labour. The working parts of the machine consist of a blade, dredge and elevator, the last named operated by a small Ford 8 h.p. petrol engine, all of which are mounted on a steel frame designed for towing and fitted with pneumatic-tyred wheels. The blade is pivotally mounted so that the cutting edge adapts itself to the road

surface camber, and the lateral movement of the blade (which enables it to be kept in contact with the kerbside) is controlled by a wheel from the operator's seat. A hand-operated lever raises the blade to clear obstructions in the gutter. A dredge mounted below the machine catches the dust and rubbish scraped loose by the blade and the elevator, equipped with buckets on a continuous chain principle, scoops it up from the dredge and deposits it down a chute into the body of the towing lorry.

A special attachment for the machine will shortly be available which will carry out verge trimming, including automatic loading.

The second machine on view at this stand, a Slush Remover, was built to the requirements of the Cheshire County Council, County Surveyor Raymond J. Nickols, M.I.C.E. The machine which is illustrated on the facing page, is again of the towing type, has a series of rubber- or steel-edged inclined blades arranged in an overlapping fashion at an angle to the direction of travel. For clearing snow and slush, especially on country roads, this machine should be a boon.

Amongst the wide range of heavy site work plant shown, W. E. BRAY & Co. displayed their hydraulically operated angle dozer. This implement, which is built for all makes of track-laying tractor, has a blade depth below ground of 1ft 2in and above ground of 3ft 6in; it will angle 26 deg from the square. In this same range of equipment CHASESIDE ENGINEERING Co. had on view their Chaseside

Left: the Dixon Power Float manufactured by the Columbus-Dixon Organisation. Right: The "Aldborough" prefabricated concrete building used as a classroom at Ewell. Manufactured by Associated Building Construction Developments Ltd. and shown at their stand these concrete prefabricated buildings incorporate in the roof "Benfix" prefabricated joists manufactured by Johnson's Reinforced Concrete Engineering Co.



EXHIBITION REVIEW

Shovel and 3 cu yd Dumper, both of which incorporate modifications to a lesser or greater degree. The latest version of the 3 cu yd Dumper has a Perkins P.6 diesel engine instead of the Ford V.8, tipping has been improved and the vehicle now has hydraulic brakes.

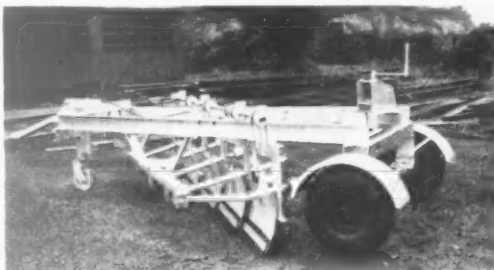
At long last a power tool has been marketed in this country which will enable a near-dry concrete mixer to be used and satisfactorily worked to produce a dense concrete or grano floor covering without making it rather tempting to add more water. Such a machine—the Dixon Power Float—was introduced for the first time at this exhibition at the stand of the manufacturers, the COLUMBUS-DIXON ORGANISATION. The tool pictured at the bottom of page 584 consists of a 24in revolving plate operated by an electric- or petrol-driven motor and controlled by switches, buttons or levers on the handle. A welcome feature of its performance is the estimate that it works five times faster than hand trowelling methods.

Engineers with a grit removal problem no doubt found the working model of the "Rotex" grit plant of great interest on the stand of HARTLEYS (STOKE-ON-TRENT), LTD. This, claimed to be highly efficient, plant has useful improvements on orthodox models. A small "planette" sewage distributor was also on view.

The makers of the Sitemaster—(mobile office)—STEPHENSON DEVELOPMENTS (HUDDERSFIELD), LTD., were exhibiting for the first time their latest unit the "Skimaster," an example of



The 2 1/2 lb Fix-Rammer. Cartridge operated to drive screws into iron or steel and other building materials, this hand tool was shown by Langham Export Co. Ltd., sole distributors.



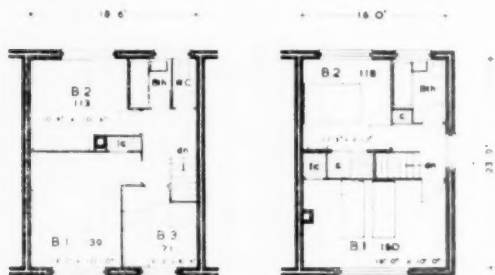
Slush Remover made by Johnson Bros.

Stand for Ruston-Bucyrus Ltd.

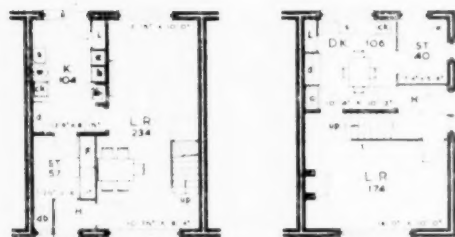
Designer: S. P. Jordan, A.R.I.B.A. M.S.I.A.



Provisional-type plans for houses and flats exhibited at the Public Works Exhibition by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Chief Architect to the Ministry is J. H. Forshaw, M.C., M.A., F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I.



FIRST FLOOR



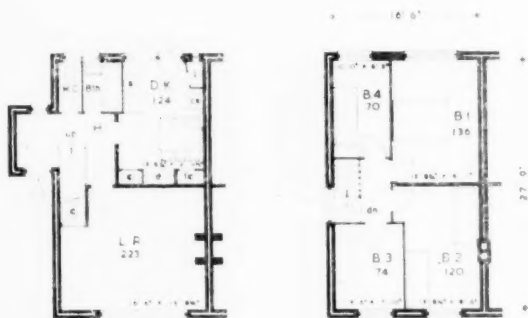
GROUND FLOOR

NF/A4

GROSS HOUSE AREA	879
STORE	57
NET HOUSE AREA	822
AGG. GND. FLR. LIVING AREA	338

NF/A17

GROSS HOUSE AREA	772
STORE	40
FUEL	53
NET HOUSE AREA	720
AGG. GND. FLR. LIVING AREA	280



NF/D1

GROUND FLOOR

FIRST FLOOR

GROSS HOUSE AREA	96.11
STORE	100.7
FUEL	50
NET HOUSE AREA	62
AGG. GND. FLR. LIVING AREA	94.5
	34.7

Scale of feet
0 10 20 30 40 50

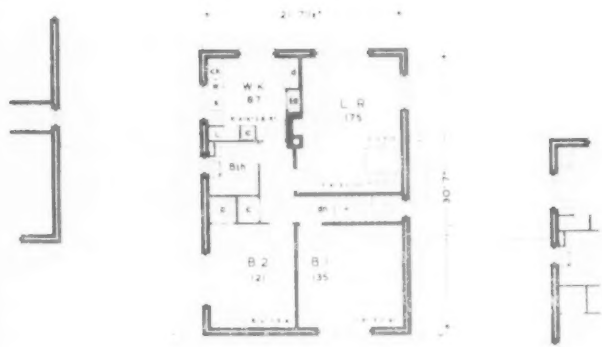
which had been skilfully adapted and dressed up to form the Stephenson stand. Skimaster units embody skis instead of a wheeled chassis and are rather wider than their equivalent Site-masters but otherwise incorporate the same advantages. One hundred pounds in capital outlay is saved by omitting a permanent wheeled chassis, but the unit can be moved short distances on its skis or by road on an independent trailer. A special trailer is fitted with winch and ball bearing rollers which it is claimed enables one man to load a Skimaster unit.

One of the encouraging signs of this exhibition was the number of well-known items of equipment which displayed small improvements; proof that manufacturers are on their toes or conscious of competition. For instance, the Barrywald automatic incinerator—makers, SANGUARD APPLIANCES, LTD.—has an improved tray, a new motor with automatic cut out, and the burning chamber is now air cooled so that no heat is felt on the outside casing after burning even for a considerable period. To take another example, the Potterton "Rex" automatic gas-fired boiler, maker DE LA RUE, LTD., shown on the stand of the GAS COUNCIL, has a new safety device—the "perfecta" combined flame failure and pressure cut off—which also ensures that the boiler can only be lit in the correct lighting sequence.

Prominent on the Gas Council's stand was a set of the laundry equipment manufactured by ELECTROLUX, LTD.—Washing machine, Hydro-Extractor and Laundry truck. This scaled-down laundry looks awfully simple to use and very clean—it is all in stainless steel; no doubt it is a useful investment for certain hotels, and schools, and possibly other institutions with similar laundry problems.

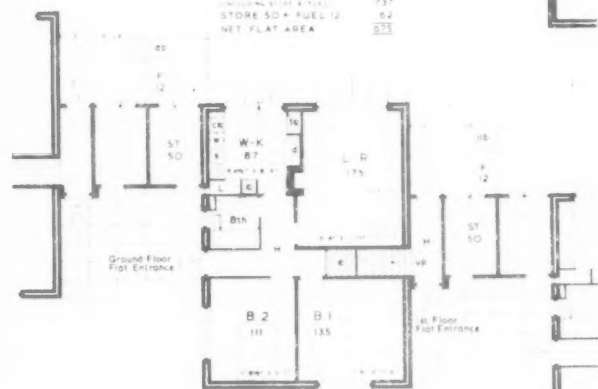
Of other products on view at Olympia last week, the following is a selection of manufacturers with a note on their exhibits:—

A.C.E. MACHINERY, LTD., Hoists and winches. THOS. W. WARD, LTD., Contractors and site work plant of all kinds. BROADS MANUFACTURING CO., LTD., Covers, gratings, refuse disposal chutes. WICKHAM ENGINEERING CO., LTD., Mobile Builders' hoists, winches, light dumper. GEORGE COHEN SONS & Co., LTD., Derricks, rollers, excavators and other kinds of plant. THE BRITISH STEEL PILING CO., A 50ft self-erecting pile frame, various power-driven hammers. ELECTRICAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, A house wiring display demonstration of the "ring main" system employing the B.S.I. standard 12-amp socket outlet; electric water heating. R. A. LISTER & Co., LTD., A selection of their well-known petrol and diesel engines.



FIRST FLOOR FLAT - 4 PERSONS

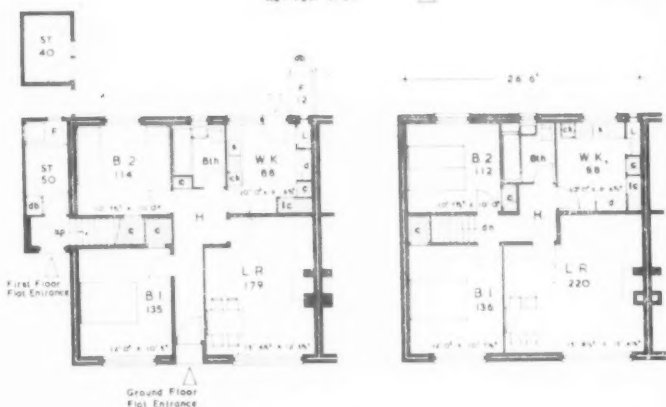
GROSS FLAT AREA 737
 STORE & FUEL 52
 NET FLAT AREA 685



GROUND FLOOR FLAT - 4 PERSONS

GROSS FLAT AREA 704
 STORE & FUEL 52
 NET FLAT AREA 652

DF/1



SF/2

GROUND FLOOR FLAT - 4 PERSONS

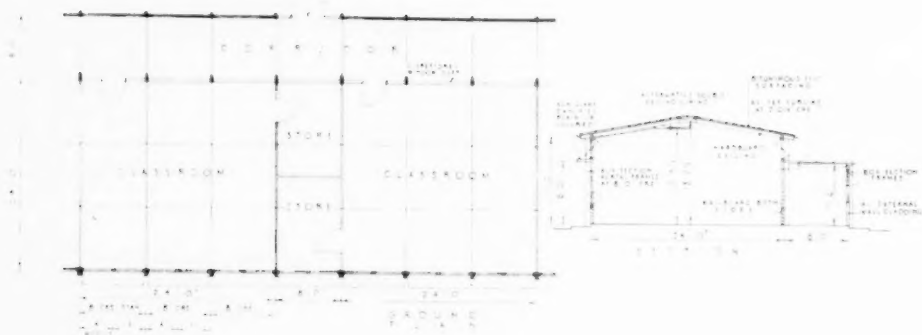
FIRST FLOOR FLAT - 4 PERSONS

	GROUND FLOOR	FIRST FLOOR
GROSS FLAT AREA (INCLUDING STORE & FUEL)	716	727
STORE & FUEL	52	50
NET FLAT AREA	663	677

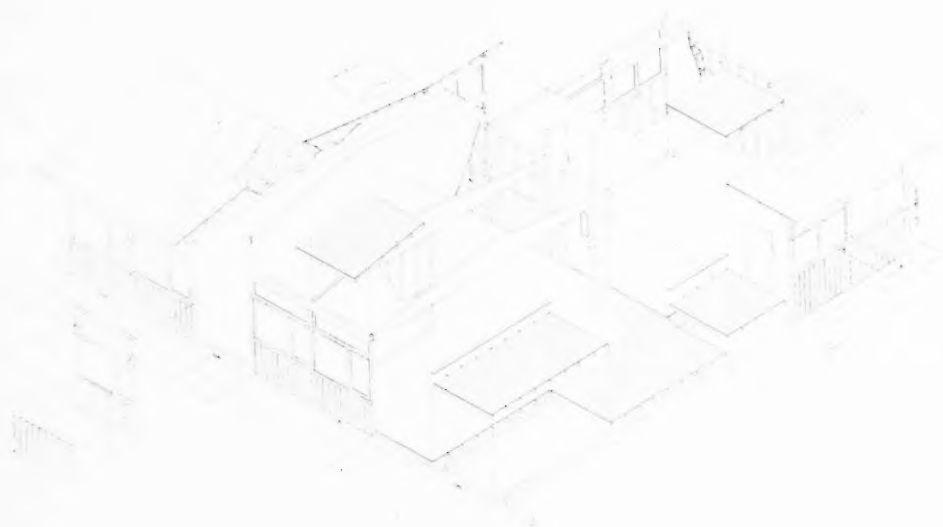
Scale of feet
 0 10 20 30

NEWTON, CHAMBERS & Co., LTD., Excavators and cranes, including their new NCK Model 605. THE RAWL-PLUG Co., LTD., A selection of Rawl-plugs and Rawlbolts and Rawltails. GRANWOOD FLOORING Co., LTD., Various coloured and patterned floors in wood block composition. SEALCRETE PRODUCTS, LTD., Waterproofing, colouring, hardening and decorating cement, concrete and allied building materials. BELL BROS. (MANCHESTER 1927), LTD., Water filtration, softening and sterilization equipment. TURNERS ASBESTOS CEMENT Co., LTD., Chiefly "Everite" asbestos cement pressure pipes in a wide range of sizes. BOUTON & PAUL, LTD., Examples of their joinery and chain link fencing. ACROW (ENGINEERS), LTD., A selected range of equipment for building and engineering contractors employed upon concrete or brick construction. THE DOVER ENGINEERING WORKS, LTD., Various covers and frames for sewage and storm water disposal and other engineering equipment. BRITISH IRON AND STEEL FEDERATION, An information centre for the iron and steel industry with emphasis on the iron and steel scrap drive. ROURA & FORGAS, LTD., The Tornado high-speed cartridge hammer. NEETA, LTD., Stackable and adjustable and other types of tubular steel chairs and tables. ADAM AND HARVEY (RAPID HAMMER), LTD., Cartridge operated rapid hammers. RAPID METAL DEVELOPMENTS, LTD., Examples of rapid metal formwork and its application to different types of construction. PULLPLUG PRODUCTS, LTD., Caulking compounds, fixing devices and hand tools. BRATT COLBRAN, LTD., Domestic and industrial heating appliances. THE BRITISH RUBBER DEVELOPMENT BOARD, A film display: Exhibits showing rubber used for road signs, flooring, upholstery, protective clothing and other uses. COX & Co. (WATFORD), LTD., Seating of all kinds; also chairs and tables for schools, canteens, restaurants. UNITUBES, LTD., Kipex conduit and couplings. EXPANDITE, LTD., A variety of Expanite products and fillers for joints that move. GUYREX EQUIPMENT, LTD., A system of steel shuttering components. BOOTH & Co. (ENGLAND), LTD., The Uniport alient circular building of aluminium sheet. SECOMASTIC, LTD., "Galvafroid" iron and steel protective coatings and "Secomastic" joint sealing compound. BURGESS PRODUCTS Co., LTD., Silencers and air cleaners. PENFOLD FENCING & ENGINEERING, LTD., Chain link fencing. THE GEO. H. GASCOIGNE Co., LTD., "Keeklamp" method of tubular construction. WILLIAM SUGG & Co., LTD., Space heaters. F. H. BOURNER & Co. (ENGINEERS), LTD., "Supataps" and power tool hammer with explosive cartridge.

illustrations
 overleaf



Plan, section and perspective view of the "Alframe" school unit constructed of aluminium alloy, which was illustrated at the stand of the manufacturers—Structural and Mechanical Development Engineers Ltd. Consultant Architect: A. F. Hare and Partners.



The exploded drawing above shows the general principles of construction of the Medway Mark IV design of school building in prefabricated timber. The manufacturers—The Medway Building and Supplies Ltd. who are specialists in prefabricated timber construction incorporated part of the school construction in their stand. Consultant Architect for Medway School Buildings is Raglan Square, F.R.I.B.A., M.S.J.A.

Public Works
Exhibition Review

.... and now



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For years, the name of DOCKERS has been in the forefront of good paints. Syntholux . . . Muroleum . . . Hermator . . . Hermasheen—all are established favourites in the decorating world. And now—VYDOK Emulsion Paint is introduced after thorough experiment and research. VYDOK has all the advantages . . . plus the name of DOCKERS behind it. As you want the best results, you cannot do better than use VYDOK!

Note these features of VYDOK: No primer needed

★ Can be second-coated within two hours ★ Can be washed and scrubbed ★ Matt or Eggshell finish.

DOCKER BROTHERS

Makers of Paints, Lacquers and Varnishes for every purpose

LADYWOOD · BIRMINGHAM 16



The Housing Drive

NEW PERMANENT EXHIBITION

by Allied Ironfounders

ON OCTOBER 2nd the new Allied Ironfounders London Headquarters and Showrooms were officially opened. They house the directing and principal administrative offices of a group of twenty-two foundries which, between them, are the leading makers of light castings for the British building industry.

The two lower floors of the building provide a spacious, impressive, permanent setting for the display of Allied Ironfounders' wares. These fall into six main categories: rainwater and soil goods; baths; fitted goods (solid fuel, gas and electric domestic cooking, heating, and water-heating equipment); heavy duty cooking appliances; agricultural machinery, and general industrial castings.

The display itself is most attractive: each piece of equipment can be examined from several angles, and full descriptive information is given on a nearby panel. The staff is ready to explain things to you as one expert to another.

In the basement is an ingeniously equipped small private cinema-cum-lecture hall. Altogether, this is one of the best contrived and most quickly informative private exhibitions in London.

* * * * *

Nothing is for sale at these new Showrooms. Allied Ironfounders are a Merchant Trading Organisation, and stocks are held for sale by every leading Builders' Merchant in the country. The Showrooms, placed by design in the heart of business and professional London, are exclusively an Exhibition and Information Centre. They exist to be of service to the Architect, the Municipal Official, the

Builder and the Builders' Merchant, and that great host of others who have business with 'Men of Iron'.



MEN OF IRON. From the brick mural by Trevor Tennant, in the main reception hall.

In 1709, having taken out a Patent for 'a new Invention for Casting Iron-bellied Pots in Sand without Loam or Clay', Abraham Darby established the first ironfoundry that corresponds to any modern definition of the term.

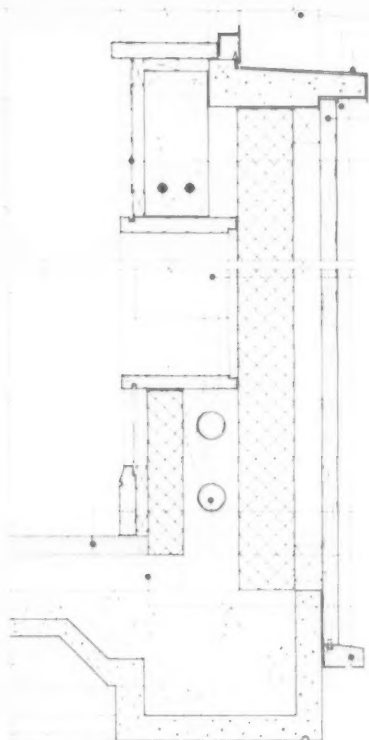
Within the framework of Allied Ironfounders Ltd., the descendant of that foundry is still making the best contemporary goods by the best contemporary methods. These are the goods you can see in the Showrooms.

The Showrooms are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday.



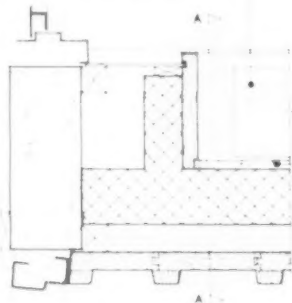
ALLIED IRONFOUNDERS LTD

New HQ and Showrooms are at 28 Brook Street, London, W.1. Telephone GROsvenor 8941



SECTION A-A SCALE $1\frac{1}{2}'' = 1'0''$

6" R.C. HANGER
EX $1\frac{1}{4}'' \times 3\frac{1}{4}''$ FILLETS
COPPER FACING
WESTERN RED CEDAR BOARDING
SYCAMORE VENEERED PANELS
CONVECTION HEATER



PLAN OF FASCIA ABOVE
ENTRANCE DOORS
WOODBLOCK FLOORING

HEATING PIPES

$\frac{1}{2}'' \phi$ HEATING PIPES
BENEATH SURFACE

EX $2\frac{1}{4}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$ WESTERN RED
CEDAR CILL

BLIND BOX RECESS

PRECAST TERRAZO CILL

PRECAST CONCRETE UNITS
CONCRETE FILLING
SCREED
PLASTER
BUILT-UP ROOFING
COPPER WEATHERING
 $\frac{3}{4}''$ FIBREBOARD



COPPER CRAMPS

$\frac{4}{8}''$ PARTITION BLOCK

R.C. BEAM

PRECAST CONCRETE PANELS

COMPO. TILE FLOORING

COPPER FLASHING

PRECAST CONCRETE SLABS

$\frac{1}{2}''$ PLASTER ON WOOD-WOOL

COPPER CRAMPS

BRICK END WALL

CAST STONE PAVING

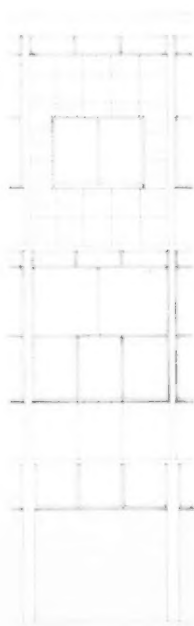
5" CONCRETE SLAB

GROUND LEVEL

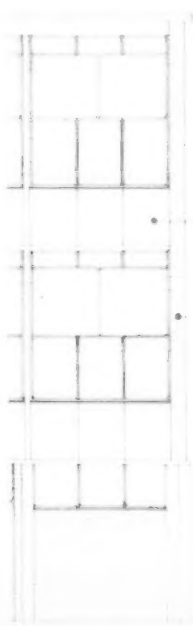
8" x 8" R.C. COLUMN

SECTION THROUGH WALL
OF CLASSROOM WING

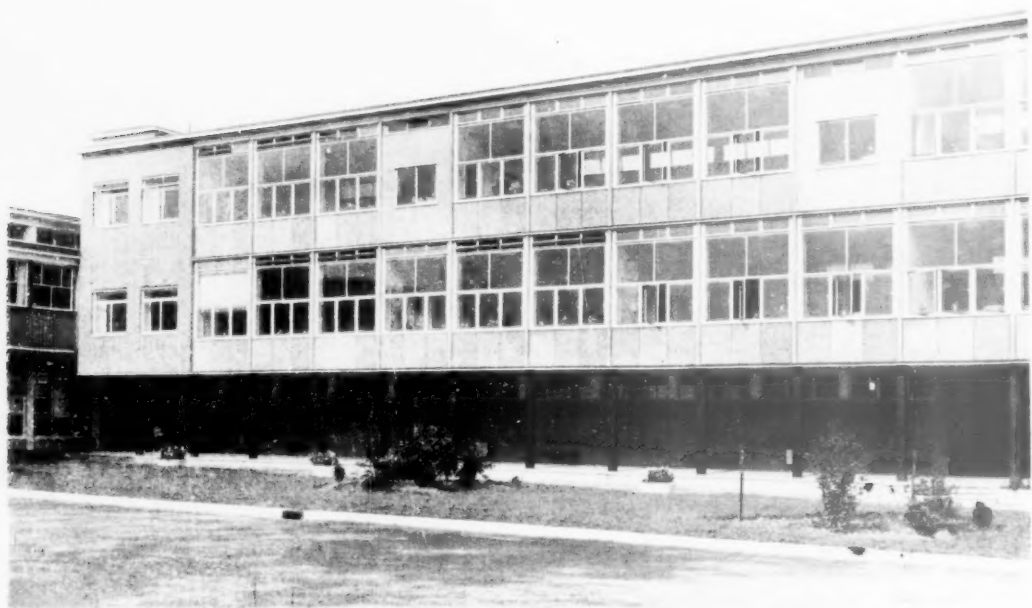
SCALE $1'' = 2'0''$



ELEVATION OF BAY
WITH TILED 2ND FLOOR



ELEVATION OF END BAY
SCALE $1'' = 8'0''$

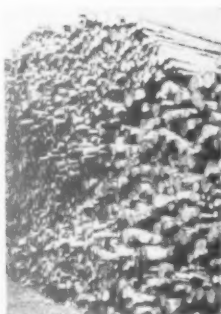


WALL DETAILS, OLD PALACE PRIMARY SCHOOL, POPLAR
ARCHITECTS: C. C. HA. DISYDE AND HAMMETT & NORTON





Logs arrive at the Sundeala factory.



Log pile.



Converting logs into chips.

From Raw Material to the Perfect Building Board

Specially selected wood and proved methods of production (the outcome of over 50 years experience in board making) gives you SUNDEALA . . . Britain's Best Building Boards. Made in a variety of substances, thicknesses and finishes for interior and exterior work, SUNDEALA is specified by leading architects and used with first-class results by builders and workers in wood. The SUNDEALA range covers every possible specification.

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Buy British*



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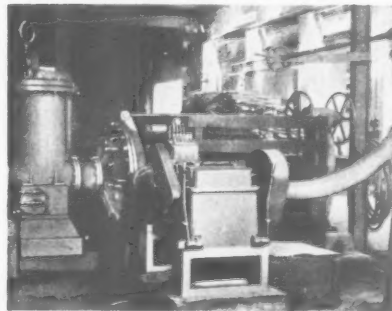
Specially processed to withstand
DAMP AND MOISTURE

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GLASGOW: BALTIC CHAMBERS, WELLINGTON ST., C.2. NEWCASTLE: NORTHUMBRIA HOUSE, PORTLAND TERRACE, 1

Converting wood chips to wood pulp.

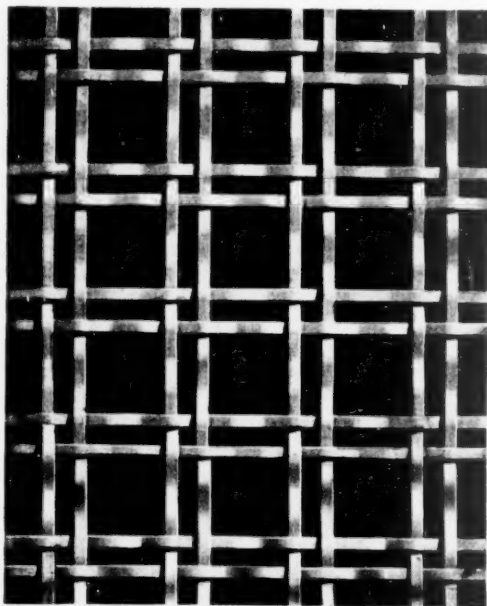


Beating the wood pulp.



Boards ready for despatch.





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The artistic effect of Harco Ribbon Wire renders it particularly suitable for use where care of design and appointment are of major importance. Architects will appreciate that it not only screens the unsightly, but allows free circulation of air. The patterns in which Ribbon Wire can be woven, make it the perfect selection for Lift Shaft Enclosures, Ventilating Panels, Radiator Covers, Electric Heater Covers, etc. Illustration shows Pattern No. 1376 W. Other Patterns and full particulars in Catalogue A 744.

Harvey

G. A. Harvey & Co. (London) Ltd. Woolwich Road, London, S.E.7

Thermacoust *Channel Reinforced* WOOD WOOL ROOFING SLABS

Were used in the new Cavendish Primary School, Middlesex, and in 12 schools in the same programme

THERMACOUST Roofing Slabs are being extensively used by leading Local Authorities and Architects, and in many notable school and civic schemes. They have outstanding advantages for roofing schools, factories, housing, shops, etc. THERMACOUST Slabs are large, lightweight, easily handled units, with high heat-insulating properties. They are fire-resistant and can be cut with wood-working tools. Standard slabs 6ft. long; 6ft. 8in. and 7ft. slabs made to order.

- ★ For FLAT or PITCHED Roofs.
- ★ No purlins needed at less than 7ft. centres.
- ★ NO other insulating material has greater structural strength.
- ★ NO ceiling essential; high sound absorption if left bare.



*Cavendish Primary School, Chiswick,
County Architect: C. G. Stillman, F.R.I.B.A.*

For Information Sheets
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LIBRARY NOTES

The Density of Residential Areas

Ministry of Housing and Local Government; H.M.S.O., 1952; 5s net.

THIS publication extends the series of handbooks on Housing and the Planning of Central Areas. It is concerned with an attempt to analyse the subject of the density of residential areas into its constituent elements. It defines the major purpose of calculating density as being to estimate the amount of land used and to indicate the standard of the living conditions resultant on a given density. The handbook also asserts that it is concerned with land-use planning and not with architectural design and layout. How these essentially inter-related factors can be kept separate from each other, in any particular housing area, is difficult to understand clearly.

The handbook contains much information on the general considerations necessary for examining and fixing densities in new urban areas. Much of the matter is concerned with attempts to bring a state of fixation into problems which face all planners, but about which they have already managed to acquire some co-ordinated experience. This is, in fact, a main criticism of the publication; it is based not so much on analytical experiment or enquiry into existing conditions as on the average experience of the past laying-out of urban residential areas; as such it is an admirable summary of both past mistakes and discoveries. But, in view of the need for guidance on these matters during the preparation of the development plans required by the 1944 Act, the handbook seems to have been issued somewhat late to be fully effective. Some planning authorities have still to complete redevelopment residential areas within the general plans, so the new book may still be of some immediate use.

The measurement of density by habitable rooms per acre is the method stressed by the handbook and some may hold that this is a better method of approach than the measurement which uses the number of persons to the acre. But here again there would seem to be a timelag; the planning of houses and flats in the last few years has been altered in general concept and may continue to alter. How is it possible to equate the old type of separate habitable-room planning with the "open planning" in which dining space is part of a kitchen, or the whole of a ground floor is a combined kitchen - eating - living - circulation - space? If ways of living within a given space alter, then density must be again related to human beings and their movements and not to some preconceived static cells to be occupied by them.

One of the chief series of illustrations in the book is plans and models of a given area of housing development with alternative densities ranging from 50 rooms per acre to 90 rooms per acre. In each case the layout of roads and even the alignments of the buildings is the same; the only differences being the height of the various blocks of houses (two to three storeys) and flats (three to six storeys—the latter is held by some authorities to be a particularly uneconomic height). These samples of layout account for, even if they do not explain, the separation by the compilers of the book of the elements of "land-use planning" and "architectural design and layout." An area developed with high density requires a very different layout from that of half the density, whatever the measure of density. Such examples may even be misleading to lazy designers by suggesting that density can be increased by sticking to the same plan and merely extending the buildings upwards. It may be a demonstration of density, it is scarcely architectural planning.

The handbook has two appendices; one repeats the "Suggested Minimum Street Widths in Residential Areas" issued as Circular No. 19 (1951); many of these suggestions could be revised again, some of the widths are still too great for these days of high costs and in view of the necessity to reduce land absorption. The other appendix gives the Daylighting Indicators for use in Residential Areas. These revise the general indicators given in the handbook "Redevelopment of Central Areas," adapting them for residential purposes, generally flats, and form a very useful reference not otherwise easily available. S. R. P.

Industry in Towns

By Gordon Logie. Published by George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., London. Price £3.

GORDON LOGIE'S book *Industry in Towns* can best be summed up by the author's own words in his introduction, "The object of this book is to give the essential facts about industry so that town planners can develop their technique of planning for industry as successfully as they have already developed other aspects of urban planning."

To this end the author has briefly considered in part 1 of the book, the major industrial planning problems, such as Distribution of Industry, Location of Industry, Industrial Zoning, Industrial Estates, Small Factories and Workshops, Industrial Architecture, Industrial Nuisance, Special Industries, Transport, Human Relations, Industrial Surveys and Industrial Density. Each of these 13 chapters is exceptionally well documented with figures and statistics prepared as a result of a great deal of original research.

Part 2 of the book consists of a survey of some 245 individual industries, the section on each industry includes a description of the processes involved, the type of worker, services needed, and information concerning the distribution throughout the country, factors affecting the choice of site, sources of raw materials, linked industries, type of factory and other valuable information.

The book is illustrated throughout with well selected photographs of modern factory buildings both in Great Britain and abroad and the thoroughness with which the author has tackled his subject makes this an essential addition to the library of every town planner. The preface has been provided by Professor W. G. Halford, and the layout and typography of the book merits special commendation.

E. D. M.

Forces in Framed Structures

By T. Lyle Morgan. Eyre & Spottiswood, 25s.

THIS book is devoted entirely to the analysis of the forces in the members of statically determinate frames due to the action of dead and live loads. It is written primarily for building students and deals with the subject comprehensively and without the employment of elaborate mathematics, so that it would be a useful book for the architectural student reading for the R.I.B.A. exams.

The book is amply illustrated with line drawings and test papers are set, with answers given at the end.

L. W. ELLIOTT.

Steelwork in Building

By W. Basil Scott. Spoon Limited, London. Price 25s.

NOT very long ago there appeared in these columns a review of a book explaining the code of practice for reinforced concrete that seems to have acted as a pattern for this new work which takes B.S. 449 clause by clause and explains their detailed application.

As a member of the Committee which prepared B.S. 449 Mr. Scott is well suited to explaining and expanding the B.S., a task which he has performed admirably. Moreover the guidance he has provided in the application of this B.S. which is the basis of almost all structural steelwork in this country, is of very great assistance, especially to the less knowledgeable.

The book includes notes on the related code of practice, C.P.113 and endeavours to explain the slight differences between the two documents. The inclusion of tables of properties of high tensile beams is most useful.

This seems to be an essential book for all those concerned with steelwork design. P. C.

Principles and Practice of Prestressed Concrete

By P. W. Abeles.

THIS is a second edition of Mr. Abeles' excellent book on prestressed concrete. With the rapid developments being made in prestressed concrete it is to be expected that constant revision will have to be made to any textbook dealing with the subject. This latest edition has been amended to include particulars of the first report on pre-stressed concrete, prepared by the Institute of Structural Engineers and reference has also been made to the latest German regulations. The notation has been revised to agree with the recommendations made by the first report.

L. W. ELLIOTT.

Waterworks Byelaws and Fittings

By D. G. Davies. Published by The Colliery Guardian Co., Ltd., for Water and Water Engineering. Price 30s.

THIS is an excellent exposition of the subject of Water Byelaws and Fittings by an author who is particularly conversant with the subject. The historical survey is interesting in showing the gradual development of control of this essential commodity by means of legislation up to the Water Act, 1945. It is, incidentally, made clear that this Act did not supersede all existing Water legislation and some private Acts, perhaps unfortunately, remain.

The existing Model Water Byelaws are examined in detail and commented upon very usefully and objectively. The author discusses similarly the British Standards for water fittings and gives reasons why even more should be prepared as a contribution to national economy. In this connection it is interesting to see set out the charges of one authority for testing fittings as it would seem that if manufacture was subjected to proper quality control and a B.S. mark applied, much money and labour could be saved.

Wrapped up among the commentaries on Byelaws and B.S. are many very valuable pieces of information and advice which justify a full and careful reading of the whole of this book. It is by no means mere guidance to water engineers but is equally applicable to makers of fittings, plumbers and fitters.

Among the numerous illustrations are some magnificent examples of sanitary fittings gleaned from the catalogues of Messrs. Shanks & Co. of 50 to 70 years ago.

The book is well produced, the text and illustrations clear and the information extremely well referenced by paragraphs and excellently indexed both by paragraphs and pages.

General Foremen and Clerks of Works Annual Dinner

MR. J. Ian Robertson, of Burton-on-Trent, President of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers, presided at the 56th Annual Dinner of the London Association of Builders' Foremen and Clerks of Works, held at the Café Royal, October 29. He said in his speech:

"To-day all the lights in the building industry are turning to green, and we are being urged to push ahead with all possible speed in carrying out an enormous programme of building work—houses, schools, factories and defence works and so on. A programme on this scale does, of course, create additional problems for the industry and in the last resort we all know they are solved or not solved according to the resourcefulness and skill of those stalwarts of the building site, the foremen and clerks of works.

Recent years have seen remarkable advances in new building techniques and methods. The introduction of new tools, plant and equipment—all designed to increase the speed and efficiency of building practice—has made building employers, and, indeed, all the professions concerned with building, fully alive to the great need for highly competent men in what may be called the supervisory posts of the industry, and are doing all they can to get them.

Four years ago my Federation helped to set up the Standing Committee for the Training of General Foremen, to deal with the shortage of general foremen in the building industry, and to formulate a training scheme for men of craft experience, so that they would be capable of taking on the higher posts and fit themselves for advancement in the industry.

The work of that Committee has been eminently successful and, as a result of its work, courses in General Foremanship have been run at 50 or so technical colleges throughout the country.

I know the question of certification is occupying the minds of many interested in the training of general foremen—and it is, of course, a logical development from the holding of training courses—but it is a matter on which we should, I feel, all be well advised to make haste slowly. Although there may be, and there undoubtedly are, strong arguments in favour of certification, no certificate for passing a written examination can be, by itself, a guarantee of the practical competence and ability of the holder. The weather conditions under which we frequently have to operate in building in this country, the uncertain deliveries of materials and components, the variations in the skill and capacities of operatives from one site to another and the fundamental need for a high degree of efficient site organization—all these call for qualities in the general foremen which cannot be established merely by his ability to compose satisfactory

written answers to questions on an examination paper.

Nevertheless, the present courses for training general foremen are important and necessary in improving the status and efficiency of those who occupy what is, and always has been, one of the most important jobs connected with building.

It is, therefore, with some regret that I learn that there is a danger that some technical colleges in the London area offering courses, may have to discontinue them because insufficient candidates are coming forward to fill the classes. This is where members of the London Association of Builders' Foremen and Clerks of Works can, and will, I know, want to help. I can think of no better encouragement for the chap who is attending classes, or thinking of doing so, than that his general foreman at his place of work should show some interest in the course of study he is following, and give him the benefit of his wider experience in the practical field. In addition, the experienced general foreman is the one who is best qualified to note a promising craftsman, or young trade foreman, who is likely to make a good general foreman after a suitable training course, and by informing his employer of his views, the experienced man can initiate the first steps towards encouraging the craftsman to go to classes.

To my mind, if the building industry is to continue to give efficient service to the public and retain its pre-eminent position in the industrial life of this country, it is essential that it should not only see that the young men coming into it have the opportunity to train themselves for positions of greater responsibility, but that they should also be encouraged by both their employers and their colleagues in the industry, to sacrifice some of their leisure hours to attend the necessary courses of instruction."

Mr. Robertson ended with an appeal on behalf of the Association's Pension Fund. Sir Thomas Bennett, C.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., replied to the toast of the guests. Over 460 were present.

Building Operatives' Holidays

Building operatives have been awarded two weeks' annual holiday with pay by the Industrial Disputes Tribunal, the additional week's holiday to be taken during the holiday year beginning in April, 1954. The Tribunal has given building employers the option of granting the second week of holiday in the winter.

The Tribunal found that a claim of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers that operatives should serve a qualifying period before entitlement to a holiday credit stamp was not established.

Selection of Bricks

RECENTLY a brickmaker was complaining to me that architects do not take sufficient interest in the selection of bricks from aspects other than those of colour and texture. I have a feeling that there may be some truth in this complaint as I do notice from time to time failures of bricks on account of their selection not having been made to suit the ultimate position in which they are to be laid. Exposure conditions have a vital effect on the choice of bricks and, in my mind, it is most important to assure oneself that the quality, as apart from colour and texture, is suitable; in my mind it is wise if the conditions are to be severe, as at the seaside, below damp-course level, in parapet walls or just exposure to strong wet winds, to make sure from the brickmaker that the particular bricks selected are suitable for the particular position in which they are intended to be used.

This brickmaker said he thought it was a pity that a B.S. had not been prepared in setting out the minimum requirements in relation to a given range of exposure conditions. There is no B.S. for the quality of clay bricks other than those of engineering types, largely, he said, because no one had been able to define precisely a facing brick. The approach suggested might overcome this difficulty. There is B.S.1257 for methods of testing clay bricks by which minimum limits might be placed for the physical and chemical requirements for each type of exposure; it might be that there are a few varieties which, from experience, are known to have properties outside the probable minimum limits but are known to be satisfactory in use, but the existence of a B.S. would not be likely to influence their use in the areas where they are already known. I think B.S.I. should try this line of approach to the preparation of a standard which would be very helpful as a safeguard to both user and brickmaker. The user needs to know his selection will not let him down, and equally the brick supplier does not want bad reports about his bricks because they have been wrongly used.

Another complaint the brickmaker made was that when some users test bricks, either for quality or size, they are apt to take too few bricks from a load or a stack instead of the number set out in B.S.1257 or in B.S.657 for tolerances on size and, in consequence, the sample examined is not an adequate representation of the bulk. In my opinion the examination of a few bricks such as six or nine can easily give a false impression since they are unlikely to be fully representative. I believe the numbers required by the two B.S.s, namely 50 and 24 respectively from each 30,000 bricks or less in a consignment, are based on statistics which indicate that they are likely to give a fair picture of the whole con-

signment. Certainly one cannot judge the colour and texture adequately from a small number and I prefer to see fairly large panels built up in order to gain an adequate impression of the ultimate effect. It is very necessary also to examine the colour of bricks in conjunction with the mortar which will be used with them as the influence of the mortar colour, depending as it does on the sand available and the mix, is very great.

It is unfortunate that so far no test has been devised for frost resistance of bricks and clay roofing tiles; it may be that bricks can be assessed reasonably well by other means as the only trouble which may then arise will be due to bricks which have been insufficiently fired, but for roofing tiles it would be extremely useful.

I have consulted C.P.121.101, the Code of Practice for brickwork, on this subject of brick selection, but, unfortunately, it only gives very general guidance which I do not find very helpful. The main advice given is that the user should be careful but no limits are given for the properties for each type of exposure set out. The Code suggests that information based on tests in accordance with B.S.1257 should be provided by the maker or tests should be carried out in order to control deliveries in relation to the sample; this does not seem very helpful if the original or test figures indicate an unsuitable brick, but the buyer does not know it from lack of information as to suitable limits except when they are to be used in parapets, retaining walls and external garden walls. The Code, incidentally, is quite precise as to requirements for sandlime and concrete bricks and minimum qualities are recommended for each type of exposure. It has often seemed to me that brickmakers might, with advantage, in their trade literature and through their salesmen, provide prospective buyers with figures for the test results, in accordance with B.S. 1257, generally achieved as a guide prior to making colour and texture selections. Makers must surely have these figures as it is by carrying out constant testing of this nature they are able to keep control on their production.

My brickmaker complainant also expressed the opinion that bricks should not earn bad marks through the omission to use proper damp-courses, copings and weatherings, but it seems that quite often this happens. He cited a case where some of his best bricks had failed badly in a parapet wall; the coping was formed by laying the normal face bricks on edge without any d.p.c. whatever; when he was called to see them the wall was saturated with moisture with the result that frost had caused very great damage.

A point he mentioned, which in-

terested me very much, was that some brickmakers wanted to re-introduce, much more generally, perforated bricks and cavity-type bricks, but there seemed to be very great prejudice against them in any district where their use was not traditional. To me this seems a strange point of view as I worked in an area where perforated bricks have been in general use for a very long time, although perhaps less in recent years. These types of brick, if made from the right sorts of clay, can be perfectly satisfactory and give strengths greatly in excess of those needed for most normal applications. Most bricks are quite unnecessarily strong for their purposes; most types have crushing strengths of 1,500 lb/sq in upwards, whereas concrete blocks and walls with as little as 400 lb/sq in have been found to be quite adequate. Obviously, a clay brick of a similar strength might be inadequate for other reasons, but most certainly a small reduction of strength due to perforations or cavities would not matter at all if the outer walls of the brick were of sufficient thickness to ensure a good brick.

As a parting shot he asked me if I knew why so often architects make enquiries for bricks just as the foundations are being put in, as on this account the bricks he would probably like best are not immediately available, especially just at the moment when demands for facing bricks seem to exceed the supply, and those being produced are already ordered by those who know that advance ordering is the only way to get what they want. Advance ordering helps to keep production more even.

DUTCH UNCLE

M.O.W. LECTURES NOVEMBER

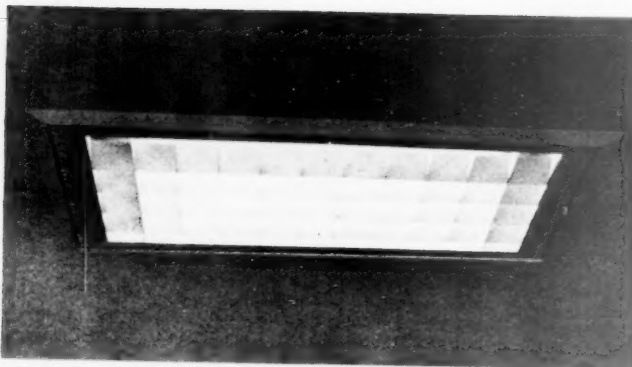
IPSWICH, Monday, November 17, at 8 p.m.
BUILDING ON SHRINKABLE CLAY.—Speaker: A. D. M. Penman, Building Research Station, at the Crown and Anchor Hotel, 10, Westgate Street, Ipswich.

CROYDON, Monday, November 17, at 7.30 p.m.
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN BUILDING PLANT.—Speaker: A. MacNiven-Brown, Building Research Station, at the Polytechnic, Selhurst Road, South Norwood, S.E.25.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, Tuesday, November 18, at 7 p.m.
A HISTORY OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION.—Speaker: Percy Parr, City Engineer and Town Surveyor, City and County of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, at the Y.M.C.A., Connaught Hall, Blackett Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

BURNLEY, Tuesday, November 18, at 7.15 p.m.
SOME FACTORS INFLUENCING THE PERFORMANCE OF WOODWORKING MACHINERY.—Speaker: P. Harris, Forest Products Research Laboratory, at the Municipal College, Burnley.

SOUTHAMPTON, Tuesday, November 18, at 7.15 p.m.
SOIL MECHANICS IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY.—Speaker: A. I. Little, George Wimpey & Co. Ltd., Research Department, at the Technical College, Building Department, Albert Road, Southampton.



MOSAICS

The names and addresses of manufacturers of any item illustrated in MOSAICS, together with more detailed information relating to their products—including price and availability—will be forwarded to readers on request.

Letters should quote the serial number and be addressed to:

The Editor,
The Architect and Building News,
Dorset House,
Stamford Street, S.E.1.

Please mark the envelope MOSAICS.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES

SOFTWOOD LICENCES FOR JOINERY MANUFACTURER

Under existing arrangements, joinery manufacturers are dependent for their supplies of softwood on Timber Licences surrendered to them by their customers. For some time, however, a scheme known as the Timber Bank has been operated by the Ministry of Works. Members of the Timber Bank are able to send the small timber licences they receive from customers to the Ministry of Works, who credit their accounts and issue bulk licences for softwood at convenient intervals.

In order to enable them to buy their softwood well in advance of requirement, and to permit them to manufacture standard joinery in convenient production runs, it has now been decided to offer to all manufacturers of joinery who are members of the Timber Bank, immediate overdraft facilities under which they will be allowed to anticipate their softwood requirements by up to six months. Membership of the Bank is open to all joinery manufacturers, and the new facilities will be available to new members immediately on joining, as well as to existing members.

As at present, joinery manufacturers will need to sell their product only against timber licences, and if they are Bank members, will be required to remit these licences to the Timber Bank. An overdraft must be redeemed within twelve months of the date of its advance.

Full details of the new arrangements can be obtained from the Ministry of Works, Room 605, Lambeth Bridge House, London, S.E.1, to which address any interested joinery manufacturers should accordingly apply.

Price reductions in a wide range of fluorescent fittings and accessories are announced by Philips Electrical, Ltd., Century House, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W.C.2.

The Ministry of Materials announces that from October 29, 1952, the price of good ordinary brand zinc is decreased from £118 to £110 per ton delivered consumers' works. Premiums for higher grades remain unchanged.

Mr. H. W. Brockett, of Cheltenham, has joined the Gliksten Organization and is covering the counties of Gloucester, Somerset, Wiltshire and Herefordshire for Gliksten Doors, Ltd., and Gliksten Building Materials.

SERVICES, LIGHTING B 160

The four sections of Mosaics this week are devoted to one fitting designed for a special purpose by the manufacturers working in conjunction with an architect.

The fitting is of the laylight type containing fluorescent tubes.

In the text case the fittings were to be mounted at 14ft. above floor level and designed so that:

- (a) Servicing could be carried out by one man.
- (b) The heavy louvre section was easily detachable.

This type of fitting should now prove of value in hotels, public buildings, picture galleries and so on where ladders may be undesirable.

The laylight consists of a fixed outer frame in which a sub frame carrying the lamps and reflectors is hinged (see top picture). The hinged frame has a louvre fitted inside it as a sliding extension which opens progressively as the frame is lowered (top left). On closing the laylight the louvre is automatically retracted.

The whole operation of opening or closing the hinged frame and lowering or raising the louvre is automatically controlled as one sequence in either direction by the operation of a self-sustaining hand winch.

In the closed position the unit is retained by an automatic catch. To open this a light rod is hooked on as shown in the lower picture above.

When the louvre reaches the bottom of its slide the lamps and interior of the fitting are easily accessible.

The principle illustrated in these pictures is applicable to all sizes of glazed or louvred laylight fittings, the cost being proportional to the size of fitting used.



Notes below give basic data of contracts open under locality and authority which are in bold type. References indicate: (a) type of work, (b) address for application. Where no town is stated in the

CONTRACT • NEWS •

OPEN

BUILDING

BARNSTAPLE B.C. (a) 6 pairs, 1 block of 4 and 1 block of 6 dwellings, Pilton Lawn Estate. (b) Borough Surveyor, The Castle. (c) 2gns. (e) Dec. 4.

BEDFORDSHIRE C.C. (a) Additional classroom accommodation at the County Secondary School, Sandye Place, Sandy. (b) County Architect, Shire Hall, Bedford. (c) Dec. 1.

BRIDGWATER B.C. (a) 24 flats, Sydenham Estate. (b) Borough Architect, Town Hall; with details of labour force. (c) 2gns. (e) Nov. 24.

BROMLEY B.C. (a) 107 houses, Hayes Place Estate. (b) Borough Engineer, Municipal Offices. (c) 2gns. (d) Nov. 24.

BURNLEY B.C. (a) Rosegrove county junior school. (b) Borough Engineer, 22-24, Nicholas Street. (c) 5gns from selected applicants. (d) Nov. 18.

BURNLEY B.C. (a) 52 dwellings, New Palace House Estate. (b) Borough Engineer, 22-24, Nicholas Street. (c) 2gns. (e) Nov. 24.

DURHAM C.C. (a) Peterlee junior county school. (b) County Architect, Court Lane. (d) Nov. 21.

EASTBOURNE B.C. (a) Laboratory building of approx. 39,000 sq ft floor area at Brampton Road, Hampden Park, Eastbourne, in 2 contracts for (1) pile foundations, concrete beams and floor slab and (2) reinforced concrete superstructure. (b) Town Clerk, Town Hall; stating contract or contracts; list of similar works carried out, name of Architect, location and date of completion. (d) Nov. 21.

EAST SUFFOLK C.C. (a) Police station at Bury Road, Stowmarket. (b) County Architect, County Hall, Ipswich. (c) 2gns. (d) Nov. 21. (e) Dec. 19.

EBBW VALE U.C. (a) 22 houses at Cwm Hir, Fitzroy Estate. (b) Council's Architect, Council Offices, The Walk. (c) 3gns crossed cheque in favour of Council. (e) Nov. 22.

ESSEX C.C. (a) Extension to science block at South-East Essex Technical College and School of Art, Barking. Approx. value of contract £85,000. (b) County Architect, County Hall, Chelmsford; with full details. (d) Nov. 15 (revised advertisement).

FAREHAM U.C. (a) (1) 16 flats and (2) 8 houses, Hoeford. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Westbury Manor. (c) 2gns. (e) Nov. 26.

***FARNHAM U.C.** (a) 30 houses, Bricksbury Hill site, Upper Hale. (b) Messrs. A. J. and L. R. Stedman, South Street. (c) £2. (e) Dec. 11. See page 38.

FAVERSHAM B.C. (a) 50 houses in 5 contracts at North Preston. (b) Borough Surveyor, Municipal Offices. (c) 2gns. (e) Dec. 8.

address it is the same as the locality given in the heading, (c) deposit, (d) last date for application, (e) last date and time for submission of tenders. Full details of contracts marked ★ are given in the advertisement section.

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GREAT YARMOUTH B.C. (a) 34 dwellings, Magdalen College Estate, Gorleston (Development No. 20). (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall. (c) Nov. 21.

HAMPSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY. (a) Police house and office at (1) Barton-on-Sea and (2) West Wellow. (b) County Architect, The Castle, Winchester. (c) Ign each site, cheque payable to Treasurer of the Hampshire Police Fund. (d) Nov. 19.

HAYES AND HARLINGTON U.C. (a) 54 flats, Bourne Farm Estate. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Town Hall, Hayes, Middx., with full details of similar contracts completed or in hand. (d) Nov. 17.

HECKMONDWIKE U.C. (a) Contract No. 8) 14 houses, (Contract No. 9) 6 houses, and (Contract No. 10) 8 houses, Dale Lane Estate (separate trades). (b) J. K. Garlick, 6, Church Street. (c) 2gns. (d) Nov. 28.

LEWES B.C. (a) Contract 10) 25 houses, Church Lane Estate (North). (b) Borough Engineer, Council Offices, Fisher Street. (c) 3gns. (d) Dec. 6.

LINCOLN C.C. (a) 114 flats and maisonettes, Riselholme Estate. (b) City Architect, Stamp End. (c) 2gns. (d) Dec. 1.

LONDON-BRENTFORD & CHISWICK B.C. (a) 20 flats, Hogarth Lane area, Chiswick. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall, Chiswick, W.4. (c) 5gns. (d) Dec. 1.

LONDON-CHINGFORD B.C. (a) (1) 42 houses, Boardman Avenue; (2) 48 houses, Antlers Hill; (3) 30 houses, Sewardstone Gardens. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall, E.4. (c) 2gns. (d) Nov. 27.

LONDON-MITCHAM B.C. (a) 28 flats comprising the Rowan Crescent estate, S.W.16. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall. (c) Nov. 29.

LONDON-WEST HAM B.C. (a) Contract 175) 50 maisonettes, Queen's Road, E.13. (b) Borough Architect, 70, West Ham Lane, E.15. (c) 2gns. (d) Nov. 15.

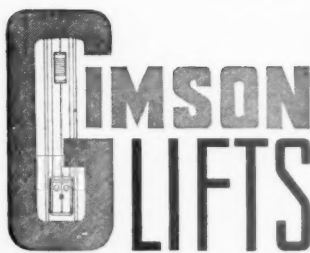
LOWESTOFT B.C. (a) (Group A) 16 houses, (Group B) 26 houses, and (Group C) 14 houses, Whitton Estate. (b) Borough Engineer's Office, 49, High Street. (c) 2gns. (d) Nov. 22.

MANCHESTER C.C. (a) 11 shops and maisonettes, Brooklands Neighbourhood Main Centre, Baguley. (b) City Architect, Town Hall. (c) Ign. (d) Nov. 28.

MANCHESTER C.E.C. (a) Repair of portion of the building fabric at the College of Technology. (b) Chief Engineer and Works Superintendent, College of Technology, Sackville Street, 1. (c) Nov. 29.

MERTHYR TYDFIL B.C. (a) Conversion of South Wales and Mon. Approved School, Quakers Yard, into aged persons' hostel. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall. (c) 3gns. (d) Dec. 1.

NORTH RIDING C.C. (a) Ambulance station and 4 houses at Northallerton. (b) County Architect, County Hall, Northallerton. (c) 2gns. (d) Nov. 18.



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OLDHAM B.C. (a) (1) 32 houses, Lime-side Estate, and (2) 34 houses, Fitton Hill Estate (separate tender). (b) Messrs. Cameron and Middleton, 21, Queen Street. (c) 2gns. (d) Nov. 29.

PLYMOUTH C.C. (a) (1) 4 shops with 8 maisonettes above at King Street, Stonehouse; (2) 33 flats at Beacon Park; (3) secondary school at Penlee, Stoke, Plymouth; (4) conversion of "Ingleside," Tavistock Road, Mutley, as aged persons' home; and (5) additions at the Coroner's Court, Vauxhall Street, Plymouth. (b) City Architect, Seymour Road. (c) 3gns. each scheme, payable to Corporation. (d) Nov. 18.

ST. HELENS E.C. (a) Kitchen and dining-room at Robins Lane School. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall. (c) 2gns. (d) Dec. 10.

SOUTH SHIELDS B.C. (a) Children's home at Simonside. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall. (c) 2gns. (d) Dec. 19.

STOURBRIDGE B.C. (a) 447 houses, 68 flats and 12 bungalows, Pedmore Fields Estate (in 6 groups). (b) Borough Engineer, The Council House. (c) 3gns. (d) Dec. 10.

SWALE R.C. (a) (1) 14 houses with external works at Teynham and (2) 14 houses with external and site works at Oare. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, 48, Bell Road, Sittingbourne. (c) 3gns. each site. (d) Dec. 2.

WARE U.C. (a) Contracts Nos. 16 and 16a) 18 and 12 houses respectively at Redan Road. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, The Priory. (c) 3gns. (d) Nov. 22.

WEST RIDING C.C. (a) (1) Sanitary block at Shipley Salt High School and (2) alterations and additions to existing sanitary accommodation. (b) County Architect, "Bishopgarth," Westfield Road, Wakefield. (c) Dec. 8.

WIGAN B.C. (a) Prefabricated timber primary school at Severn Drive, Norley Hall Estate. (b) Borough Engineer, Municipal Buildings, Hewlett Street. (c) 2gns. (d) Nov. 15. (e) Nov. 26.

WIRKSWORTH U.C. (a) 24 houses, (b) Mr. L. J. Bakewell, 25, Chapel Street, Belper. (c) 2gns. (d) Nov. 29.

WORCESTERSHIRE C.C. (a) Secondary school, Studley Road, Redditch. (b) County Architect, 14, Castle Street, Worcester. (c) 5gns. (d) Nov. 28. (e) Dec. 22.

PLACED

Notes on contracts placed state locality and authority in bold type with (1) type of work, (2) site, (3) name of contractor and address, (4) amount of tender or estimate. + denotes that work may not start pending final acceptance, or obtaining of licence, or modification of tenders, etc.

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FINCHLEY B.C. (1) 30 houses, 28 flats. (2) Elmshurst Estate. (3) G. Ward (Ealing), Ltd., Hanger Lane, Ealing, W.5. (4) £84,185.

SMETHWICK B.C. (1) 202 houses. (2) Brandhall Road. (3) Baker Bros. (Builders), Ltd., Kent Street, Upper Gornal, Sedgley. (4) £287,658.

STOKE-ON-TRENT B.C. (1) 102 houses. (2) Newstead Farm. (3) J. Kelly, Corporation Street, Stoke-on-Trent. (4) £134,278. (1) 98 dwellings. (2) Newstead Farm. (3) G. and J. Seddon, Ltd., 55, Duke Street, Fenton, Longton, Staffs. (4) £127,846.

SOUTHWARK B.C. (1) Eleven-storey block of flats. (2) Kennington Theatre site. (3) Richard Costain, Ltd., Dolphin Square, London, S.W.1. (4) £114,625.

CRAWLEY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. (1) 147 houses. (2) Three Bridges. (3) Carlton Contractors, Ltd., Lingfield Crescent, Rochester Way, London, S.E.9. (4) £259,325.

S.E. METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD. (1) Out-patients' department, etc. (2) Ashford, Kent, Hospital. (3) O. Marx and Son, Ltd., Sandgate Road, Folkestone. (4) £21,928. (1) Reinstatement. (2) St. Giles' Hospital, Camberwell, S.E. (3) W. H. Gaze and Sons, Ltd., High Street, Kingston-on-Thames. (4) £38,833. Reorganization of kitchen, dining halls, etc. (2) Royal Sussex Hospital, Brighton. (3) F. T. Wilson and Sons, Ltd., 115, St. James' Street, Brighton. (4) £16,377.

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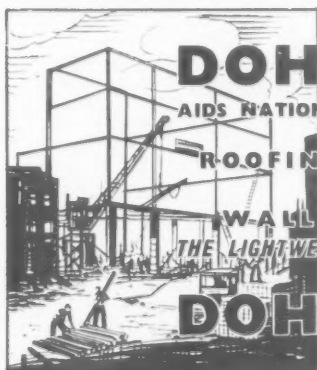
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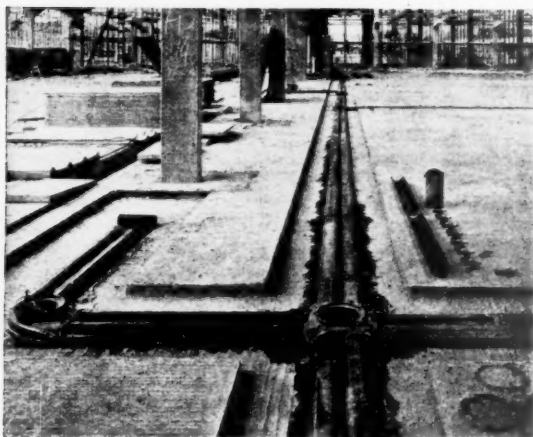
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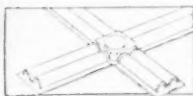
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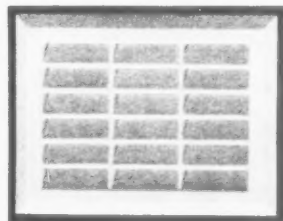
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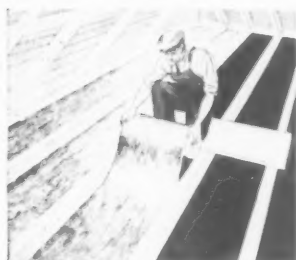
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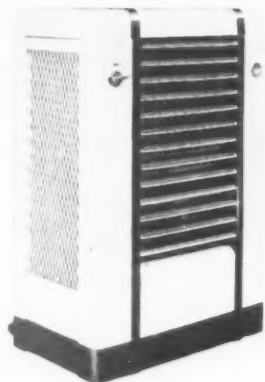
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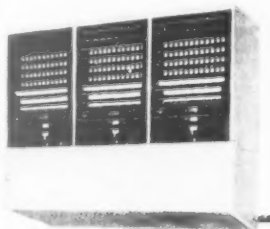
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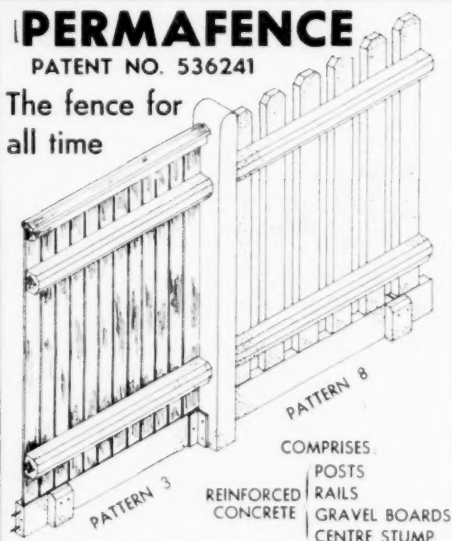
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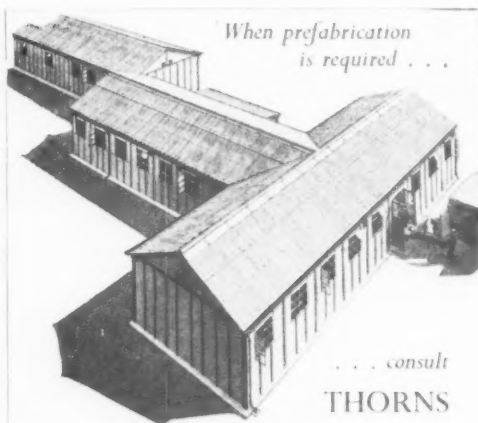


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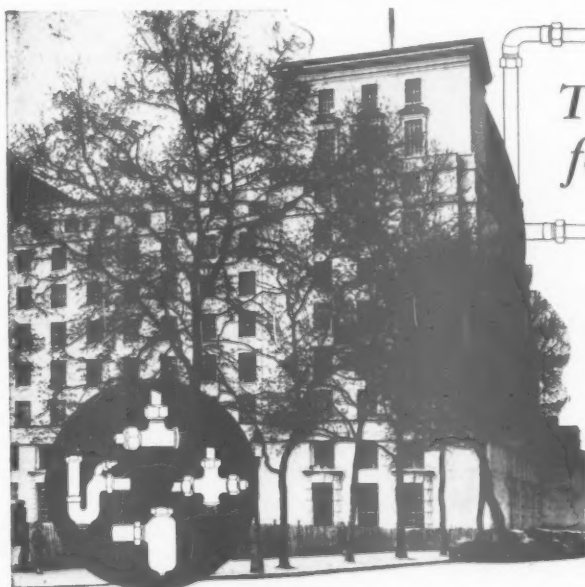
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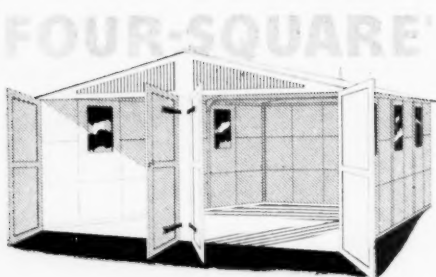
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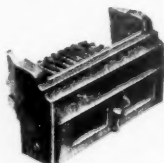
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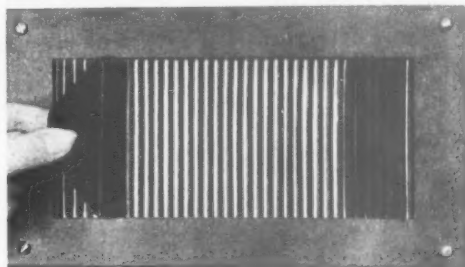
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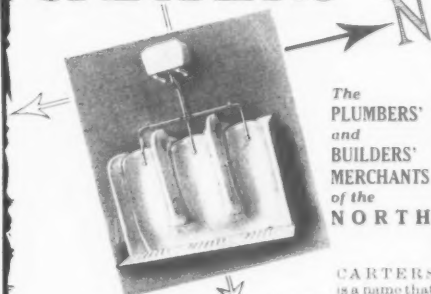
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BOROUGH OF OLDBURY

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT

APPLICATIONS are invited for the above appointment in the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department. Salary Grade A.P.T. VIII (£760-£835 per annum).

Candidates must be Associates of the R.I.B.A., have high ability in design and be capable of preparing and supervising schemes of construction connected with Housing and Public Buildings and School maintenance work. Previous experience with a Local Authority is desirable.

Particulars and conditions of appointment and form of application may be obtained from the undersigned, to whom applications must be sent, not later than Thursday, 20th November, 1952. Canvassing will disqualify.

Housing accommodation will be made available if required.

KENNETH PEARCE,
Town Clerk.

Town Clerk's Office,
Municipal Buildings,
OLDBURY.

NOVEMBER, 1952

[6760]

GOLD COAST GOVERNMENT

VACANCY FOR POST OF MANAGING DIRECTOR, TEMA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

APPLICATIONS are invited for the post of MANAGING DIRECTOR of the Tema Development Corporation.

DUTIES. The duties of the Managing Director, who will be a member of the Corporation, will consist in the formulation of plans for the layout and development of the new town and port of Tema, near Accra, in the Gold Coast, (estimated ultimate population 50,000) the organisation and management of the executive work of the Corporation and its co-ordination with that of the harbour authority for the port.

QUALIFICATIONS. Applicants should preferably have had experience of large contracts, be able to manage major constructional projects, be experienced in management, negotiation, consultation, co-ordination, finance and the law as applicable to New Towns. He should preferably have had New Town experience in the United Kingdom. Previous employment in British Overseas territory, preferably West African, is desirable. Qualities of adaptability and initiative are essential. Applicants should be not less than 35 years of age.

TERMS OF SERVICE. Appointment will be on contract/statutory terms for a five-year period; salary will be £3,000 consolidated per annum, with gratuity at the rate of £37.10s for each completed three months of satisfactory service which will be payable on final termination of the contract.

Free passages on first appointment and on leave will be provided for the officer and his wife once each way during each tour of service. Length of tour 12-15 months. Successful candidates will be required to travel by air. Free air passages will also be provided for a maximum of 3 children under 13 years of age once a tour.

Vacation leave with pay, six days for each month of service. Free medical and dental attention provided for officer and family. Furnished quarters available at low rental. Income tax on local rates. Kit allowance on first appointment £30.

Candidates should apply in writing to the Commissioner for the Gold Coast, Melbourne House, Aldwych, London, W.C.2, giving their age, qualifications and full details of their experience; not later than December 31st, 1952. [6765]

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOROUGH

BOROUGH ARCHITECT AND TOWN PLANNING OFFICER. Salary: £1,550-£20-£1,800 per annum.

PARTICULARS of the above appointment and forms of application to be returned by 5th December may be obtained from the undersigned.

C. E. VIVIAN ROWE,
Town Clerk.
Guildhall, Northampton. [6781]

APPOINTMENTS—contd.

CITY OF BATH

CITY PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURAL DEPARTMENT

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of an ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT. Grade A.P.T.V. Applicants must be Registered Architects and preference will be given to those who are Associates of The Royal Institute of British Architects. They should have had good experience in design and construction of Municipal Housing and other works.

The appointment is subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, and the successful candidate will be required to pass a medical examination.

Applications stating age, qualifications and experience, together with the names and addresses of three referees, should be sent to the City Planning Officer & Architect, 7, North Parade Buildings, Bath, not later than 26th November, 1952.

(SGD) JARED E. DIXON,
Town Clerk.
Guildhall, Bath. [6776]

CITY OF BELFAST

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following positions on the staff of the Education Architect's Department—

(1) CHIEF ASSISTANT ARCHITECT.

Applicants should be highly qualified architects who have passed the final R.I.B.A. examination or its equivalent. As senior officer in charge of the drawing office the person appointed must be a capable and efficient administrator with a sound knowledge of building construction.

The scale of salary for the position is £815-£27.10s-£925 per annum.

(2) SENIOR ASSISTANT ARCHITECTS.
Candidates must be qualified architects with good experience in the design and construction of buildings, particularly schools, and be capable of supervising the work of a section of the Department. Preference will be given to applicants who are Corporate members of the R.I.B.A.

The scale of salary for the position is £720-£25-£795-£20-£815 per annum.

The following conditions apply to the above-mentioned appointments—

The commencing figure of remuneration in each case will be determined in accordance with the qualifications and experience of the successful applicant. Superannuation contributions will be payable at the rate of approximately 6 per cent of remuneration.

Preference will be given to ex-Service candidates possessing the required qualifications, provided the appointing authority is satisfied that such candidates can, in a reasonable time will be able to, fill the posts efficiently.

Canvassing in any form oral or written, direct or indirect, will, if proved to the satisfaction of the appointing authority, disqualify a candidate for appointment.

Forms of application and conditions of appointment may be obtained from the Education Office, Academy Street, Belfast. Applications, in envelopes suitably endorsed, should reach the undersigned not later than 12 noon on Saturday, 29th November, 1952.

JOHN DUNLOP,
Town Clerk.

City Hall, Belfast,
5th November, 1952. [6778]

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

DRAUGHTSMAN (M.29427.D) required by the

Engineering Department, East African Railways and Harbours for one tour of 40-45 months in the first instance. Salary (including temporary allowance) according to age and qualifications in scale £87 rising to £1,012 a year. Outfit allowance £30. Superannuation fund. Free passages. Liberal leave on full salary. Candidates between 25 and 35 years of age, should have a sound knowledge of Engineering Works and building construction and of the design of structural steel and reinforced structure. They should be capable of taking out quantities and preparing estimates.

Apply at once by letter, stating age, full names in block letters, and full particulars of qualifications and experience, and mentioning this paper to the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, London, S.W.1, quoting on letter M.29427.D. The Crown Agents cannot undertake to acknowledge all applications and will communicate only with applicants selected for further consideration. [6779]

APPOINTMENTS—contd.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD

APPOINTMENT OF QUANTITY SURVEYORS

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following positions in the Borough Architect's Department—

- (a) 1 ASSISTANT QUANTITY SURVEYOR Grade A.P.T. VI
- (b) 1 ASSISTANT QUANTITY SURVEYOR Grade A.P.T. VI

The salaries will be within their respective grades according to experience.

Applicants must have passed the Final Examination of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and have had considerable experience in taking off for housing, schools and various municipal buildings.

The posts are supernumerary, subject to medical examination and to one month's notice on either side.

Forms of application may be obtained from the office of the Borough Architect, No. 25, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead, and should be returned in envelopes endorsed "Quantity Surveyor," to the undersigned not later than Monday, November 24th, 1952.

Canvassing directly or indirectly will disqualify. DONALD J. HEATH,
Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Birkenhead. [6766]

CONTRACTS

FARNHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

CONSTRUCTION OF 40 HOUSES IN BLOCKS AND PAIRS AT BRICKSBURY HILL SITE, UPPER HALE, FARNHAM.

TENDERS are invited for the construction of the above-mentioned houses and may be submitted for the whole or part as indicated on Form of Tender.

Forms of Tender, Bills of Quantities, Conditions of Contract and Specification may be obtained from and Drawings inspected at the office of the Council's Architects, Messrs. A. J. & L. R. Stedman, F.A.R.I.B.A., South Street, Farnham, Surrey, on payment of a deposit of £2 which will be returned upon receipt of a bona fide tender (not subsequently withdrawn) or on return of the documents.

Tenders must be delivered to the undersigned in a plain sealed envelope endorsed "Tender for 40 Houses—Bricksbury Hill" not later than 12 noon on Thursday, December 11th, 1952.

The Council does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

A. A. MINNS,
Clerk of the Council

Council Offices,
South Street,
Farnham, Surrey. [6771]

WHALEY BRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ERECTION OF HOUSES

TENDERS are invited for the ERECTION OF 14 HOUSES on THE ORCHARD FIELDS ESTATE, Whaley Bridge.

Bills of Quantities, Specification and Form of Tender are obtainable from the Surveyor, Council Offices, Whaley Bridge, near Stockport, on payment of a deposit of Two Guineas (by crossed cheque payable to the Whaley Bridge U.D.C.), which will be refunded on receipt of a bona fide Tender, not subsequently withdrawn.

Drawings and General Conditions of Contract (R.I.B.A. Form) may be inspected at the above address.

Tenders, on form provided, must be delivered to the Clerk of the Council, Council Offices, Whaley Bridge, near Stockport, in the special envelope provided, and without any name or other distinguishing mark, not later than MONDAY, 24th November, 1952.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any Tender.

C. HOUGH,
Clerk of the Council

Council Offices,
Whaley Bridge,
Nr Stockport. [6780]

CONTRACTS—contd.

CAERNARVONSHIRE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

PENYGGROES SECONDARY SCHOOL TENNIS COURTS.

TENDERS are invited for the construction and completion of TWO HARD TENNIS COURTS at Penygroes Secondary School (Grammar). Plan and Specification can be inspected at the above school, or at the County Architect's Department, County Offices, Caernarvon.

Tenders in plain sealed envelope, endorsed on the outside "Tender for Tennis Courts—Penygroes" to be forwarded to the Director of Education, Education Offices, Caernarvon, not later than 10 a.m., on Wednesday, November 26th, 1952.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

MANSSEL WILLIAMS,
Director of Education,
Education Offices,
CAERNARVON.

November, 1952

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ARCHITECTURAL APPOINTMENTS VACANT

The engagement of persons answering these advertisements must be made through the local office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, etc. if the applicant is a man aged 16-64 or a woman aged 16-59 inclusive, unless he or she or the employer is exempted from the provisions of The Notification of Vacancies Order 1952.

ARCHITECTURAL Assistants required, with at least two years' office experience; minimum standard R.I.B.A. Intermediate, five-day working week with pension scheme and staff canteen in operation; applications in writing, giving age, training and experience to: Chief Staff Architect, Hiford Limited, Romford, Essex. [6740]

ARCHITECTURAL Assistant required by large Industrial Organisation, preferably qualified and with experience in planning, design, and construction of factory buildings; the appointment is permanent and pensionable, and the salary will be £600-£800 p.a. Applicants should be between 30 and 45. Please write giving details of age, experience, etc. to Box (H 9906), A.K. Adv., 212a, Shaftesbury Ave., W.C.2. [6769]

SITUATIONS VACANT

The engagement of persons answering these advertisements must be made through the local office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, etc. if the applicant is a man aged 16-64 or a woman aged 16-59 inclusive, unless he or she or the employer is exempted from the provisions of The Notification of Vacancies Order 1952.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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COUNCIL and Municipal Architects who have not yet received their gratis copies of the Autumn issue of "The Blindmaker" (Official Organ of the National Association of Window Blind Manufacturers) please write to the Publishers, 356, Kilburn High Rd., N.W.6. [6775]

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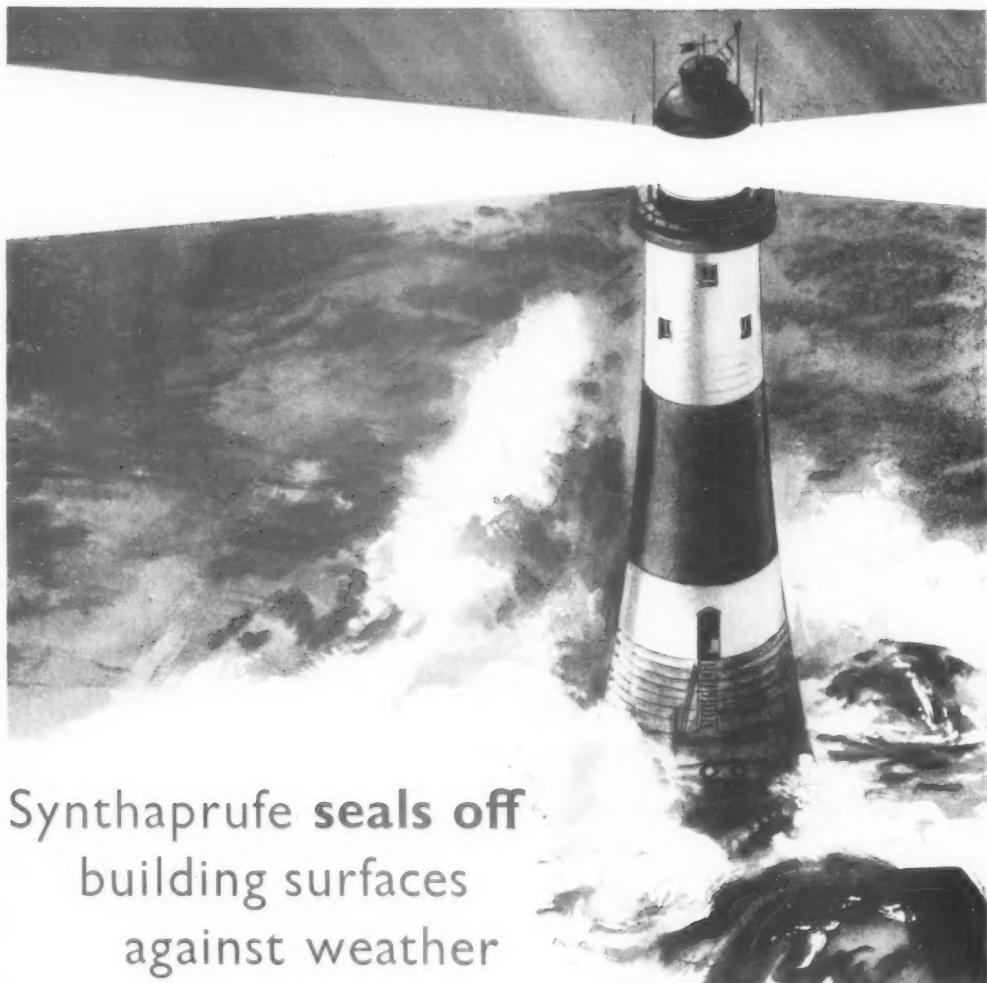
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INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

Official Notices, Tenders, Auction, Legal and Miscellaneous Appointments on pages 38 and 39

Allied Ironfounders, Ltd.	26	Dohm, Ltd.	51	Lead Industries Development Council	17	Shutter Contractors, Ltd.	34
Bamster, Walton & Co., Ltd.	21	Ellis School, The	30	Le Bas Tube Co., Ltd.	18	Smith's Fireproof Floors, Ltd.	22
Bath & Portland Stone Firms, Ltd.	39	Engert & Roffe, Ltd.	29, 30, 31	London Brick Co., Ltd.	18	Smith, Sons & Sons, Ltd.	36
Blackwells & National Routings, Ltd.	39	Esavin, Ltd.	15	Light Steelwork 1925, Ltd.	29	Solignum, Ltd.	12
Blockcraft Co., Ltd.	12	Floor Renovations, Ltd.	31	Lintex Asbestos Flooring Co.	31	Spelthorne Metals, Ltd.	40
Box, C. W.	31	Four Square Industries (Mid- dlesex), Ltd.	16	McCarthy, M. & Sons, Ltd.	29	Standard Patent Glazing Co., Ltd.	10
Briggs, Wm. & Sons, Ltd.	34	Freeman, J. & Sons, Ltd.	16	Mangolis, M., Ltd.	31	Suge, Wm. & Co., Ltd.	33
British Electricity	12	General Electric Co., Ltd., The	22	Musling Bros., Ltd.	29	Sundica Board Co., Ltd.	27
British Hermetical, Ltd.	33	Gibson, Arthur L. & Co., Ltd.	30	Midland Joinery Works, Ltd.	29	Thermacoust, Ltd.	28
British Paints, Ltd.	15	Gimson & Co. (Leicester), Ltd.	30	Morris, Herbert, Ltd.	29	Thorn, J. & Sons, Ltd.	34
British Plaster Board, Ltd.	23	Graham & Co. (Leicester), Ltd.	30	Mullen & Lumsden, Ltd.	29	Troughton & Young (Lighting), Ltd.	7
Bryce, White & Co., Ltd.	19	Graham & Co. (Leicester), Ltd.	30	National Coal Board	1	True Flue	31
Carnack Browne, Ltd.	36	Gray, J. W. & Sons, Ltd.	31	Newman, Williams & Sons, Ltd.	1	Ward, Thomas W., Ltd.	29
Carron Company	8	Hill, J. & E., Ltd.	1	Norwood Steel Equipment (London), Ltd.	8	Wardle Engineering Co., Ltd.	14
Carter, A. & Co., Ltd.	36	Harvey, G. A. & Co., Ltd.	28	Oddi Asphalte	31	Waters Patent Building Equip- ment Co., Ltd.	31
Celchem, Ltd.	11	Henley's, W. T., Telegraph Co., Ltd.	5	Permafence, Ltd.	34	Wedge (Roofing), Ltd., Ernest West Piling & Construction Co., Ltd.	24
Cement Marketing Co., Ltd.	11	Highways Construction, Ltd.	5	Reliable Plywood Co., Ltd.	40	Wild's Engineering & Contract- ing Co.	30
Clarke Ellard Engineering Co., Ltd.	10	Iron & Steel Brick & Tile Co., Ltd.	24	Reparations Dreyfus, Ltd.	37	Winterburn, F. A., Ltd.	29
College of Estate Management Coverite (Asphalts), Ltd.	11	Kiv & Co., Engineers, Ltd.	15	Ruberoil Co., Ltd., The	9	Young, H. & Co., Ltd.	2
Coxens Ventilators, Ltd.	32	Key Engineering Co., Ltd.	12	Shepherd, H. C. & Co., Ltd.	17		
Curfew Doors & Shutters, Ltd.	40	Kinnear Shutters	10				
Decker Bros.	25	Langham Export Co., Ltd.	16				

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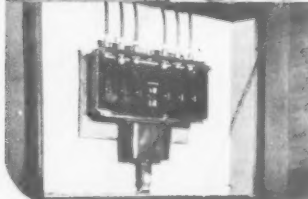
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